

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On November 9th, on board the P. & O. steamer *Victoria* in Tilbury Dock, the wife of T. P. WARDROP, draughtsman, R.E., of a son.

On October 30th, at Dunmow, Essex, the wife of E. T. BOND of Canton, of a daughter.

On December 8th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. JOSEPH WHITESIDE, a son.

On December 13th, at Shanghai, the wife of R. H. ELIAS, of a son.

On December 13th, at Shanghai, Mrs. R. S. KERMANI, of a son.

On December 14th, at Shanghai, the wife of IVON TUXFORD, of a son.

On December 14th, at Shanghai, the wife of J. SHELENHAMER, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On November 27th, at Ningpo, Captain ROBERT DOLLFUS, to FRANCES MARY, second daughter of Colonel and Mrs. O. Chrystie, Farnham, Surrey.

On December 4th, at Shanghai, RICHARD POLLAK to PAULA, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bloch.

On December 18th, at Campbeltown, Argyllshire, by the Rev. John M'Queen, Lochend, N. F. Church, ALEX. RAMSAY, Hongkong, to AGNES, daughter of Archibald Mathieson, Lochend, Campbeltown.

DEATHS.

On December 8th, at Shanghai, HARRY WRIGHT, Chief Officer of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company's steamer "*Poochi*," from pneumonia, aged 60 years.

On December 2nd, at No. 1, Chico Terrace, Hongkong, ALEXANDRE AUGUSTO DA CRUZ ROZA. Deeply regretted.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of Nov. 19th arrived per the s.s. *Prinz Eitel Friedrich*, on Wednesday, the 18th instant; and the French Mail of Nov. 22nd is expected to arrive per the s.s. *Salavie*, some time to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

It is reported that the Commerce Bureau of the Southern Prefecture in Japan has issued a note warning the local export merchants against the practice of making fraudulent use of trade-marks. The action taken is said to be the result of advices received from Japanese Consuls in China in reply to inquiries sent out by the Central Patent Office, the information being to the effect that spurious imitation goods were most numerous among imports from Osaka.

The following appointments, made by H. E. the Governor, are published in the *Gazette*:—Colonel H. Martin, A.M.S., to be a member of the Sanitary Board in succession to Lt.-Col. J. M. Reid, R.A.M.C., resigned; Messrs. E. D. C. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools, and S. B. C. Rose, Assistant Land Officer, to be members of the Board of Examiners, vice Messrs. T. C. Smith and A. M. Thomson, resigned; Mr. E. Osborne to be an unofficial member of the Legislative Council in place of Mr. Gershom Stewart.

A telegram from Kuailin, capital of Kuangsi province, reports that the city of Chinankuan has been occupied by a large number of insurgents, who are all well armed with rifles supplied by revolutionaries. The soldiers stationed there have been defeated. H.E. Governor Chang Ming-chi has instructed the Provincial Commander-in-Chief, General Ting Huai, speedily to suppress the rebels. His Excellency has been requested by the Peking Government to give protection to the lives and property of all foreign missionaries in that disturbed district.

Mo Ho, alias Lam Kue, appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazland at the Police Court on Dec. 17th, charged with the murder of her husband at 59, High Street, West Point, on November 16th, by poisoning him with gelsemium. Dr. John Bell, Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, was the first witness called, and told the Court that defendant was admitted to hospital on the night of November 17th. She was semi-conscious, very drowsy, and had slight convulsions, but got better on the following day. The symptoms were those of vegetable poisoning. On the following evening witness was told that she tried to escape from hospital, and handed her over to the police. The woman was subsequently committed for trial by jury.

On December 10th news was received at Shanghai of the death in Rome of Mr. John Goodnow, formerly U. S. Consul-General at this port. Mr. Goodnow went to Shanghai, to succeed Mr. T. R. Jernigan as Consul-General, in 1897. He was born at Greensburg, Ind. in 1858, and was a son of James Goodnow, Lt.-Colonel of the 12th Indiana Volunteers. Mr. Goodnow graduated at the University of Minnesota in 1879 and resided in Minneapolis until he went to Shanghai. During a portion of his tenure of office he was the Senior Consul. He made many enemies and not a few friends, and the circumstances which led to his removal from the post are too generally known to need mention now. After leaving Shanghai he was for a time attached to the staff of the Viceroy at Nanking.

The *Gazette* notifies that the Crown has under and by virtue of the provisions contained in the Crown leases of Inland Lots Nos. 95 and 96 resumed and re-entered into and upon all those pieces or parcels of ground lying and being at Victoria in the Island of Hongkong and registered in the Land Office as Inland Lots Nos. 95 and 96.

The Japanese are pursuing an active telegraph policy in Manchuria. They have established telegraph lines at Yingkow and south of that place, and have opened public offices at Yingkow and several other places. They have connected the Japanese lines with the railway telegraph connecting with Dalny, where the lines are joined by cable with Japan and the rest of the world. The Japanese offices accept messages to all parts of the world and charge Japanese rates.

An order made by H.E. the Governor in Council of the Straits Settlements, and published in the current *Gazette*, reads:—Whereas by Indian Act No. XIII of 1854 intitled "An Act to repeal Act No. VI of 1852 and to make provision for defraying the cost of the Lighthouse on Pedra Branca, and for maintaining the same, and also a Floating Light established in the Straits of Malacca, to the west of Singapore, and for the establishment and maintenance of such further lights in or near to the said Straits as may be deemed expedient," it was among other things enacted that it should be lawful for the Governor-General of India in Council from time to time to reduce the tolls payable under the said Act, in respect of all vessels or of any particular class or classes of vessels passing "The Straits Lights": And whereas by Ordinance No. 11 of 1867 the powers vested by the said act in the Governor-General of India in Council were vested in the Governor in Council of the Straits Settlements: It is hereby ordered by the Governor in Council as follows: On and after the 1st day of January, 1908, to tolls payable under Indian Act No. XIII of 1854 in respect of all vessels other than Straits Traders shall be as follows: If the voyage be one in the ordinary course whereof the vessel would pass all the lights mentioned in the First Schedule hereto, at the rate of twelve and a half cents for every seven tons if paid within the Colony, or at the rate of half an anna for every ton if paid in British India. If the voyage be one in the ordinary course whereof the vessel would pass any one or more of the said Lights, but not all of them, at the rate of six and a quarter cents for every seven tons if paid within the Colony or at the rate of a quarter anna for every ton if paid in British India. Provided always that no vessel shall be obliged to pay in any one month a larger sum by way of tolls than at the rate of thirty-seven and a half cents for every seven tons if paid within the Colony or at the rate of one and a half annas for every ton if paid in British India, and that all vessels described in the Second Schedule shall be exempt altogether from toll. Sailing vessels under 200 tons plying between the ports of the Colony or to or from any port or place in the Colony from or to any port or place on the coast of the Malay Peninsula to the South of the ninth degree of North Latitude or to or from any port or place in the Colony from or to any port or place on the East coast of the island of Sumatra.

UNFAIR TO JAPAN; UNFAIRER TO PUBLIC.

(Daily Press, December 14th.)

The Blondins of the circus always take a look at the rope or wire on which they are about to perform their dangerous business. They look at its fastenings; test them carefully. This is sensible and right. Suppose they were, by some extraordinary means, prevented from taking these precautions: would not their lot excite commiseration? The reading public is in that unhappy position. On its path perilous in pursuit of information, it has to achieve the performance of acquiring its convictions on a tight-rope or slack-wire of journalism. It cannot examine the apparatus, at least not with the ample knowledge necessary; and it has to take its wires largely on trust. If they turn out defective, so much the worse. It is fortunate for the public that journalism has its traditions, and that in the main the journalists who make all ready for their performance have some concern with honour in their workmanship. There are, however, members of the public who are far from averse to the thrills of mishap, and workmen who, still to pursue the metaphor, deliberately "fake the wire." Which is responsible for which, it is hard to say. In plain language, journalism is here and there disgraced, and the public grievously misled, by men who do not value facts as a basis for argument, who care nothing about truth as an ingredient of the evidence which is to lead to a verdict. Public opinion grows uncannily because of the canker at its roots. A shameful instance of this is disclosed in the following abstract from an article about modern Japan, appearing in the *World's Work*.

Every steamer from Japan, Mr. Walter J. Kingsley says, has its "Asiatic steerage" full of men and women flying to other lands in the hope of earning a less starvation wage. Everywhere in Japan now there is misery. Even Japanese children, he says, "do not laugh as blithely as in the old days. Happiness was their heritage then, but now the nation demands that the little ones go to work at a time of life regarded in England as infancy. In the manufacturing cities like Osaka there are no longer seen thousands of boys and girls playing in dainty, many-coloured costumes like gorgeous butterflies on the grass of temples. You will find them in coarse dull clothing, working like pathetic dolls in the factories. These babes toiling for a few pennies a day form a vast and sorrowful army." Tokyo, says the writer, has slums whose poverty reaches the very lowest depths—slums worse than those of London, Paris, or East New York. Japan, however, decently veils her national sores. "Their existence is hidden from the foreign visitor. Rarely does a tourist see the slums, and specialists studying the city for precise information are sedulously kept out of the poorest quarters. The *Kokumin* newspaper instructed a representative to live the life of the lowest and poorest in Tokyo, and his articles dealing with life in the Shitaya district created an immense sensation. When translated into English in pamphlet form, the Government promptly bought up the entire edition and destroyed the plates." Nothing is wasted in Japan, for there is nothing to waste. "The poor devour every scrap of fish entrails from the markets, and eat with avidity rotten fruit, stinking vegetables, sour, spoiled rice, rancid grease and fragments of meat. . . . A corporation has been formed to control the collection of garbage and its distribution to the restaurants which make up their bill of fare from the filthy mess brought to them daily. There are horse-flesh restaurants and *cafés* where spoiled rice and fish entrails are the stock-in-trade. Second-hand stores and pawnshops abound, for in Japan the pawnbroker will make an advance on any article that does not fall below a penny in value." Even the artistic pride of the Japanese artist is beginning to disappear: and the small shop

is being fast crushed out by the large. The Japanese capitalist the writer condemns as the "most remorseless devourer of little ones the world has known." In other words, he is the most cruel and heartless. War veterans are walking the streets seeking work and finding none, and the actual conditions of life for them could not be more vividly brought before the reader than in what Mr. Kingsley calls "A Personal History" of a returned soldier, once a rickshaw man, and his unavailing struggles, with other veterans and alone, for a bare livelihood. This part of the article, which is much too long to quote and would not bear cutting, I recommend to the reader.

We recommend the reader quite otherwise. Those who want to know about the actual conditions in Japan are warned that the matter quoted is a product of pure, or rather impure, imagination. Mr. WALTER J. KINGSLEY is a gifted young American with a history, who abandoned sailing for journalism, with no qualifications other than a facile pen, a fertile imagination, a fund of cynical humour beyond all scruple, and a fine command of the English language that would have brought him *Kudos* if put to more honourable use. He is the same young man who, under the pen-name of "Stephen England," made the *Daily Mail* a laughing stock during the Russo-Japanese war. He was in Japan for a very few months during the latter part of 1903, since when he has remained in America. He has never been in Osaka, knows nothing of Tokyo but its railway station, and his "personal history" of a returned soldier must have been concocted on an American table with the usual American genius out of purely American material. The phrase "more in sorrow than in anger" accurately describes the feeling with which we make this exposure; and it is in the public interest that it should be done. The egregious WILLIAM T. STEAD is the competent reviewer who takes upon himself to "recommend to the reader" such a grossly misleading concoction.

Another bad example, though not quite so bad as the foregoing, is provided by an illustrated article in the *Daily Graphic*, by WALTER KIRTON. This second Walter tells of a discovery he has made at Shanghai, of a school for Japanese spies. We believe that in this case the writer may know something about Shanghai, as he is still living there; but he does not know very much about the Japanese, if we may judge by this article. The more he does know of them, the more does this article discredit him. "Armed with a card from the Japanese Consul-General," he ingenuously writes, he was admitted to the school for Japanese spies. On the card, "a number of weird characters were scrawled," and though the Consul may consider this slight on his penmanship impolite, he will probably chuckle at Mr. KIRTON's simplicity in supposing he would have given him a card of admission to anything not politically above board. It was really the Japanese school at Tung-wen, on the outskirts of Shanghai, that Mr. KIRTON visited, and we cannot object very much to his definition of its object—"when all frills are stripped away, the training of young Japanese in everything necessary to secure Japan's preponderance in the Chinese Empire." If he had stopped there—but he didn't. He tells the British public that "a Chinese official," not identified in any way, made the following remark to him.

He said: "It is the Franco-Russian war over again. Then the Germans knew more about France than the French did themselves. These Japs are doing the same here, and we can't stop them. They have their treaty rights."

Perhaps such a remark was made, but it hasn't sufficient vraisemblance for us. The next fragment is much neater.

In a corner of the quadrangle stood a roughly-built shed, with light plank walls and lattice-work apertures; the floor was strewn with thick grass mats covered with canvas. It was the jiu jitsu school, or place of exercise. Two of the college champions gave me an exhibition—I presume their rice was already digested—and I should be loath to engage in a rough-and-tumble with either of those five-foot-nothing terrors, despite my six feet and 185lb. In one study sat a round-faced, close-cropped youngster, reading. He handed me the book and asked my opinion about it. It was "The Simple Life," and that book was never read in more appropriate surroundings. The entire kit and equipment of the room might have cost 30s. The reader was in the commercial department, preparing to take up one of those fat billets which are now going to the Japanese every day at a tithe of the remuneration hitherto paid to "foreigners."

After that we come to the part that seems really objectionable, where Mr. KIRTON dwells on the "spies'" preparations for disguise. Their chief wickedness seems to be that they grow their hair long, with a view to pigtails. There is a photograph of a Japanese student in "his national costume or kimono" (!) which in the picture is really the *hakama* and *haori*, and foreign socks and shoes; and there is the statement that "dressed in Chinese costume he is indistinguishable from a native and is able to travel anywhere in China on his mission of espionage." To foreigners like Mr. KIRTON he might be indistinguishable, but the Chinese themselves may not so easily be deceived. As it is, if the disguise be so clever, it is odd we should hear so much of Japanese spies inland. There are physical differences easily discerned by competent foreign observers which are ignored in the following passage.

Other students wore their hair in different stages of length, they were on the "political" side, and the hair is worn long with an object. On first entering the college the political—and some of the commercial—students cultivate the growth of their hair by every possible means. Then, towards the conclusion of their term, they adopt the queue of the Chinese, shaving their heads in the accepted manner and plaiting into their own property—if required—the easily-bought tails of human hair, with their silk continuations necessary to make a proper pigtail. The transformation is perfect and complete. The hair and eyes of the Japanese are identical in every way with those of the Chinese; both races have black hair and brown eyes. The eyelids of both slant inwards, and the prominent cheek-bones and other racial characteristics are identical among all these myriads. The Japanese student of to-day strips off his simple uniform or kimono—dons the dungaree garments of John Chinaman, strolls out to the furthest corner of the Celestial Empire—note-book in sleeve and eyes open for anything useful to his country—in appearance a Chinese; in fact, the Japanese "investigator" of to-morrow. It was from this college that the Japanese spies, who did such great work for their country during the recent war, were drawn. It is from this college that the Japanese Government recruits its Intelligence Department in its campaign of political and commercial conquest of the Chinese Empire. Indistinguishable from any Chinaman, equipped with every necessity and unhampered by any superfluity, the ex-student of Tun-Wen penetrates yamen (official residence) and hong (merchant's office) on his tour of investigation. Rice and water is his only commissariat; the clothes of day are likewise his bed at night. He is the penultimate practitioner of the Simple Life, and, despite all vituperation, this is one of the great factors in success. I came from Tun-Wen college full to the brim with food for thought.

The offensive solecism of referring to the people who admittedly treated him courteously as "Japs," and even of putting that expression into the mouth of "a Chinese official," is sufficient to tell the enlightened how Mr. KIRTON habitually masticates his

"food for thought." The whole thing is a mare's nest, and the students who cultivate queues do so for the same reason that many of the foreign missionaries do it, and with no more harm. Messrs. WALTER KINGSLEY and WALTER KIRTON, so coincidentally named, were not writing for people who know, but for people who don't know, and that sort of thing is anything but fair to the latter.

SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, December 16th.)

The letter we have taken the liberty of reproducing from the columns of our Shanghai contemporary came too pat after our own comments upon at least one Chinaman's obstructive attitude with regard to foreign railway loans to be ignored. We had to write strongly about SHENG KUNG-PAO and his politics, because always, when one has ascertained the facts, and is reasonably sure of them, *odiosa est oratio, cum rem agas, longinquum loqui*—or, as an impudent school-boy very freely translated to a somewhat weak-minded tutor of our acquaintance, "beating about the bush is a beastly bore." The remarkably mild and temperate argument of our contemporary's correspondent, however, deserves more gentle handling. Indeed, it were extremely foolish not to re-examine our national position, to cross-examine our conscience, on such a friendly hint that our prestige has been lowered, and our commercial hopes imperilled. We certainly shall not take offence at such criticism. The weakest position of all those taken up by this anonymous correspondent is with regard to railways, and perhaps these points were added, on insufficient reflection, to bolster up an argument that opens much more effectively than it concludes. The suggestion that the new line from Shanghai to Chinkiang has cost too much is most unfortunate. It was Chinese opposition, and later Chinese business "smartness," that added largely to the expenditure. The *N.-C. Daily News* reports that certain Chinese effected a "corner in stone" and caused the Corporation to pay a million dollars more for ballast than they need have done under normal conditions. If British behaviour to China is to be judged solely on its connection with railway enterprise, we can hold up our heads with anybody, and in days to come the Chinese will admit that we gave more than we got. By herself, or with others less disinterested than the British have been, China would have had far less to be thankful for than she has. It is the earlier portions of the indictment that seem harder to answer, and even there, after fair consideration, there need be no hesitation in declaring that the friendly critic's feelings have run away with him. The attitude of the Municipal Council, which we are told the Chinese regard as a British body, may have appeared unnecessarily hostile and anti-Chinese at times. We also have noticed it, but naturally found it easier to understand and make allowance for than this Chinese critic does. It must be remembered that the City Fathers have had to face many "insidious attempts" to undermine their most undoubted rights—rights, which, moreover, they have again and again had the mortification of seeing treated cavalierly by the British Government, or its officials from whom they expected support. The Chinese demands have not always been more considerably made than the answers to them, and if this Chinese critic lives in Shanghai, as we assume he does, he must admit that the

maintenance of those rights is a matter of moment to far more Chinese than foreigners. There have been times in the history of the Settlement, indeed, when it would have been worse than foolish for the Municipal Council to risk ambiguity for the sake of politeness. An honest cause should not suffer because of plain-spoken champions. The position has been at times not unlike that of the father of a cherished daughter resenting the attentions of a suitor whose intentions were, well, not strictly honourable. The careful parent could not benefit more than did his child, by his watchful care; and it is certain that the foreigners of Shanghai have never gained anything for themselves that was not directly advantageous to the great native population that finds shelter and support, honest administration and personal liberty, between the Yangkingpang and the Point. It appears to be an old grievance that prompts the reference to "the different treatment meted out by the Council to Chinese and foreign residents," probably the exclusion of Chinese from the Public Gardens, about which many unjust things have been said. He might as well have asked that the Shanghai Club be thrown open to the Chinese public. The Gardens would be of no use to either side, were they not so managed; and it is not as if no provision had been made for the Chinese residents. However, no amount of argument is likely to overcome a really healthy prejudice; and it is not only in China that the British have had to work for others without expecting gratitude. It is pleasant to think, at least, how they would be missed, and their departure regretted, were they suddenly to leave the Chinese of Shanghai to their own resources. Perhaps the best answer of all is this, that the Chinese quite understand the power of the boycott, that there is no compulsion upon them to throng into the Settlement in increasing numbers, and that that is just what they continue to do—sufficient indication, surely, that the rule of the Shanghai City Fathers is perhaps not so intolerable to the majority as it would appear to be to a few.

SOLDIERS AND SYSTEM.

(Daily Press, 17th December.)

In the case of a Military Court of Inquiry such as that which was opened at Chelsea Barracks to investigate the circumstances of Lieutenant Woods' complaint that his professional character had been unfairly reported to the War Office, the proper thing would seem to be that we should accept its decision as final, and say no more about it. That would be correct procedure as a rule, and in the present case it may be that the telegraphic summary of the decision does not really warrant an exception. As it stands, however, and trusting that it does not inaccurately represent the finding of the Court, it seems impossible to express satisfaction with a decision that includes statements so mutually destructive. If the reports complained of were "abrupt and in some cases unnecessarily strongly worded," how can we reasonably be expected to believe that they were "unbiased?" Strong words necessarily indicate bias, though it may not be improper or unwarranted bias. After reading the instalment of the report of the trial which did not reach us in time for publication before this morning, and after thinking the whole situation well over, we fancy it possible to guess what the verdict means. From the Service point of view the complaining officer's superiors had done nothing wrong; they had not been unfairly biased. Unless, therefore, we can enter

into that point of view, realizing all that it looks at and allows for, there is a risk of misjudging the men responsible for the British Army, and of too hastily and too heatedly condemning them. This is the line that the civilian public seem to be inclined to take; and it is desirable that someone should point out that if there be anything to condemn, it is the system, which demands and compels such bias as we are bound to attribute to those who felt obliged to treat Lieut. Woods as they did. With that we have no present occasion to deal. There would have to be a system of some sort, and it is fully probable that if this wide subject were to be threshed out, the discovery would be made that the ideals and principles of the code which has found Lieut. Woods so incompatible are as good and as useful, from a purely utilitarian point of view, as any others that could be suggested. The *prima facie* aspect of the incident, for the general public, amounts to something like this. Here is a young officer of admittedly good character and studious habits, anxious to get on in his profession, who is disliked by his colleagues and superiors because his taste for sport, and possibly his respect for appearances, is not equal to theirs. It is quite believable that they used the usual means to get rid of him, endeavouring to make him feel his unpopularity so that he would of his own initiative take the necessary steps to leave them. It is easy to jump thence to the horrible suspicion that, these means failing, unjust reports were concocted and sent in; and it is this suspicion which the decision of the Court of Inquiry finally removes. At the inquiry, it is important to note, Lieut. Woods himself recognized and accepted the esoteric motive of the Service code; the same moving spirit and impulse that prompted their treatment of him, led him to refuse to complain definitely of his seniors' conduct. It was impossible, not to be thought of. Very well. If that were not merely conventional humbug, a pose for the benefit of the Court, it seems that he ought to have thought of it sooner. His demand for enquiry might be according to Regulations, but it was against the spirit of the ideal he professed to share. Even before that, he should have considered, if he accepts the system, his position with regard to his colleagues. Perhaps it would be a good thing to stamp out of the Army "ragging," and "class customs," and "esprit de corps": to let each man be a law to himself, and pursue his own path to the barracks where the spare cock-plumes droop: to insist upon the admitted fact that a man is a man "for a' that." That would be to change the system, however; perhaps even to abolish the army; for it is not easy to form a conception of an army of socialists keen on the liberty of the individual and equal rights. The victim in this instance, however, does not seem to quarrel deliberately with the system, though he has, perhaps unconsciously, offended it by being too independent, "unclubable." In these cases it very often happens that the victim is rather a superior fellow: that his social or professional environment is of a sort to tempt his sort of mind to contempt; but unless he has the courage to go clear away from it, our "rogue elephant" has no right to resent the resentment of his fellows, who naturally do not appreciate peculiar people. In an organization like the Army, such men are undesirable, until we provide a special regiment for them. Till then, they must compromise, consider the other's point of view more, be clubable; otherwise theirs

must be the martyrdom of Lieut. Woods, and few outside the unthinking mob will sympathise with them.

CHINA INVESTMENT CORPORATION.

(Daily Press, December 18th.)

As was to be expected, the comments upon the promotion of the China Investment Corporation, which we reproduced from the columns of our Shanghai contemporary, have elicited replies. The president of the Corporation has replied with some heat, and the American Consul has explained how he stands officially with regard to the new concern. Unfortunately, we are not yet in a position to discuss the scheme with any confidence, though on the strength of what has taken place at Canton, we cannot avoid entertaining doubts of its value to the public. If any of the gentlemen interested send us the necessary full particulars, as we have been expecting would be done, we will examine and report on them as fairly as possible. Meanwhile, the President's idea of the value of publicity does not appear to be quite orthodox. He appears to think that newspapers have no duty in such a connection, when he writes:

"So far as you have set forth facts regarding our company, we thank you for the attention. Wherein you pass to editorial conclusion, and launch upon an attack against our interests, we respectfully ask you to inspect the ordinance of God or man that places you in judgement over us. Most people claiming civilization have properly constituted tribunals for adjudication. Amongst such peoples property rights are not destroyed and lives blighted upon the whim of individuals or in retaliation for business competition. With this class of people, we would suggest further, that when rights come to arbitration, the accused or defendant is not condemned until his case is heard. Then evidence is weighed, and then only, is judgement delivered. You have occupied the bench of a self-constituted judge, and you have delivered judgement without our attacked interests being heard. You have assumed the ability to pass on complicated investment affairs, which occupy the full lives of some men in laborious work."

That is mere highfalutin nonsense, even if it had not been the case, as our contemporary explains, that the President had himself invited criticism, requested the attendance of a reporter, complained of the absence of a report, submitted a copy of the Corporation's bond, and verbally challenged investigation. If he had chosen to ignore the newspapers altogether, it would still have been their duty, in the interests of their readers, to investigate a concern that was inviting subscriptions from the public and promising a good investment.

The President suggests that the letter to the paper asking for information and editorial advice was not genuine; claims that it should have been sent to the Corporation officials for reply; states that registration at the American Consulate proves that the Corporation is legally organized and constituted; mentions that so far Judge WILFLEY's observations (if made) about the Corporation, cannot count; he could only say he knew nothing about it, since its affairs have not been brought before him; says that it is erroneous to state that all similar companies have come to grief—many of them are still operating, with increasing assets, security, and confidence; that any improperly managed company may fail; announces that it was no secret the paid-up capital amounts to forty thousand dollars, a quite ample sum; and argues:

"You have kindly taken up the arguments of our business rivals. You think there is no analogy between our bond and a life insurance

policy. The analogy is almost complete, save that our obligations are redeemed in numerical order, after maturity; straight life insurance obligations are redeemed after death of the insured. Our payments are like premium payments; our application of funds is to creation of a reserve for redemption, and to operating expenses; our reserve is invested at the highest possible interest, to increase the returns of the bondholders. We eliminate the death risk and substitute a fixed order of payment of redemption. Insurance actuaries foretell exactly what percentage of the total insured will die annually, and establish premium rates to meet these losses; our investment actuaries know with certainty the number of policyholders that will continue their payments until maturity, and fix the amounts that must be raised by investment of funds to meet the outlay. The analogy is more perfect when considering our plan in conjunction with the endowment or investment policy issued by insurance companies. These have been the secret of the enormous growth of insurance business. Their charge, above the straight life risk, is nothing more than taking your money in small instalments to invest for you. The great companies have amassed almost incredible reserves and assets, thus showing that they are able to repay a small interest with the principle, and yet accumulate hundreds of millions of dollars for the reserves. Our plan which is well tried and successful, is to pay less commission to agents on premiums and invest reserves in local realty yielding higher interest than is possible for the great companies investing hundreds of millions. Your example of our 134 monthly \$5 payments, compounded for eleven year period, is to the point; but misapplied. You have one back advertising in your columns that it will pay on fixed deposit 5½ per cent, showing that the very lowest paid in the community is about equal to your supposed rate. An average of 8 per cent for the investment company is conservative, for a much better figure is being constantly earned here. Take the \$5 monthly instalments, for 134 months, compounded eight per cent interest, and the result is about \$1,100.00 — \$100.00 more than the exact amount of our guarantee. It has been proved in every insurance or investment company opened that the company always realizes vastly greater profit than interest returns from the reserve investments, because of lapses, forfeitures and cash surrenders. As sure as the insurance actuary's table, is this earning. If every man insured died during the early life of his policy, insurance companies charging present rates would fail; yet so infallible is the mortality estimate that insurance companies are as solid as rock. Our actuary estimate of forfeitures etc., are almost equally unerring. Our fair interest income promises enough to meet obligations, while the big profits certain to accrue from forfeitures, etc., will meet all other expenditures and pay the bondholders a handsome profit above the guarantee."

After that he says the Corporation will have five satisfactory trustees, already arranged for; that it loses by paying annual interest, and not the investor; that its investors are not supposed to go to England, where their heirs would have difficulty in preventing forfeiture of monies paid in; but that in any case they would have six months grace in which to renew the payments; that the reserve is in no worse case than many other companies; and that the Corporation will be under the same publicity suffered by all other companies.

We have tried faithfully to give the gist of the President's reply, which contains much that we could not be reasonably expected to publish.

Our contemporary mildly rebukes him for heat, irrelevance, and rhetorical exaggeration, and says:

"The two instances referred to by us of similar schemes in different guises proving failures in America and Hawaii occurred in Kansas City in 1905 and at Honolulu this year. In the former (to quote from the *San Francisco Chronicle*) the company wrote contracts with individuals who obligated themselves to pay certain sums for eighty weeks, at the end of which the individual was to receive his money

back with a very liberal rate of interest. I would be obviously impossible for us to have followed the career of all similar concerns. From Mr. Black's statements it is clear that in spite of untoward results at Canton, Honolulu, and Kansas City the scheme has proved successful. This confirms our contention that, while there is no inherent reason why the scheme under careful management should not succeed, such careful management is a *sine qua non*."

Finally, in an interview, the American Consul stated that the Consular certificate of registration guaranteed no more than it said on the face of it; the Corporation, he was advised, appeared to be organized regularly according to American law. Whatever interest the consular officials might take in the concern in their private capacities was not to be construed as official support and countenance. Beyond that its business was legal and its organization regular, the Consulate had no guarantee to offer, because it was not its business to do so. There would be no official scrutiny of its accounts.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION

(Daily Press, December 19th.)

Hongkong legislators on the unofficial side may yet be inclined to take courage from the results of Singapore's agitation to reduce the Military contribution. We have spoken before of the discouragement that takes hold of those who from time to time attempt the task of "kicking against the pricks." It is no unfamiliar sensation either here or at Singapore, where also there are, as the *Straits Times* phrases it, "old and tried warriors who have taken off their armour and resigned themselves to their fate." Our southern contemporary claims that there is every reason to be satisfied with the progress of the agitation for a readjustment of the military tax on colonial prosperity. They have succeeded in "overcoming myopic unofficial opposition to the raising of the question," in encouraging the discouraged agitators who had been sulking in their tents, and in winning some sympathy even in the official phalanx. Further hope is now based on the fact that the noise of their complainings has gone farther afield, that the agitation has been taken up by the press of London. That lifts it from the status of parochial discontent, and puts the question where a timely shove from Hongkong would be most effective. Our contemporary has no doubt that a simultaneous resolution by the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Councils of Singapore and Hongkong and a petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies at the time Parliament is sitting would have the desired effect of forcing the question upon the consideration of the Imperial authorities. The following reference is made to the contribution by the *Investor's Review* of November 9th:—

The Straits Settlements are objecting strenuously to the increase of their military burdens. A three days' debate took place in the Legislative Council on the budget, and the vote to spend £205,000 as a military contribution in the current year was carried only by the casting vote of the Governor. All the unofficial members strongly condemned the vote, and pointed out that the charge had increased from £98,000 in 1898 to £246,645 in 1904, while it is still at the figure above named. No wonder there is a budget deficit of about £5,000. [This is a terrific mistake; the deficit is more than £5,000, being \$421,000 on the original Budget statement, though it is only fair to point out that this was modified.—Ed., & T.] Unless this wasteful drain of the revenue is curtailed, there will before long be good reason to doubt the capacity of the Straits Settlements to pay the full interest on their debt.

That extract goes further, perhaps, than the local critics would go. The Colonial credit is not in danger, as soon as that would come additional taxation. The existing imposts in both colonies, however, already cause a severe strain upon the burden bearers, and an almost unbearable clog on the development of these Crown Colonies, and, of course, it is the inequitable and unbusinesslike military levy that is responsible for the mischief. Another metropolitan press champion in the lists is the *Broad Arrow* of November 10 which expresses the opinion that justice is on the side of the southern Colony, which against its will is forced to pay a subsidy to the Imperial Government out of all proportion to its size and resources for the maintenance of Imperial responsibilities. It is quoted as saying these encouraging words:

So unconstitutional were the methods by which it was obtained, indeed, that victory in the long run is bound to rest with the Straits Settlements. But it is slow in coming. In the meantime, out of the total contribution paid by the Colonies towards Imperial Defence, they pay by far the most, Australia alone excepted. They are more than willing to maintain local defence up to the standard of efficiency, but they naturally object to bear Imperial responsibilities on a scale which is not consistent with their moral or physical conditions. After all, Singapore in particular is merely an entrepôt for trade. Strategically and commercially it is of enormous importance, but it is not a colony in the true sense of the term any more than Malta or Gibraltar. Unfortunately, our system of Imperial defence is so chaotic that anomalies of the kind complained of by the Straits Settlements are bound to exist, and will continue to exist until we adopt sound principles by which each part of the Empire plays a recognised part in defence in accordance with equity and Imperial safety.

Our contemporary at Singapore very properly hopes that so much advance will not be wasted for lack of further effort, and for some reason or other it appears to be shy of Hongkong's co-operation.

We can, of course, excuse its apparently selfish desire for local relief first and foremost; that is its obvious duty; but it is not easy to see how support from Hongkong could weaken its cause. Here is its concluding passage:

We hope the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council will not lose the advantage they have obtained by the resuscitation of this agitation against an iniquitous exaction, but that they will carry the agitation to the Colonial Office by the strongest means possible, and that they will use every legitimate means in their power, to the extent of having the subject raised in Parliament, if need be, in order to secure a reasonable readjustment of the Colony's burden. Although there may be opportunities of co-operating with Hongkong, we hope the Unofficials will guard against combined action if it is likely to endanger this Colony's success. The Colony in itself has a strong case for revision of the basis of the contribution, and for its own righteous cause it ought to make a strenuous and determined fight.

If Singapore has any chance of success in that direction, Hongkong should certainly not be left out in the cold. Our case is as hard as theirs, and we have no doubt that our representative members will keep their eyes open for every likely opportunity of striking a blow in our interests. Really, the two grievances seem to hang together, and should stand or fall together.

H.E. Chang Jen-chun, Viceroy of the Liang-kuang provinces, has dispatched a telegram to Lord Li Ching-fang, Chinese Minister in London, requesting him to ask the British Government to withdraw the gunboats on the West River, in order to avoid any disturbance on the part of the natives of Kuangtung.

THE CHIENTAO.

(Daily Press, December 20th.)

The Japanese view of the Chientao boundary question is beginning to find expression in the foreign newspapers. It was time, for the Chinese views had been well circulated, and it really began to look as if even the few friends of Japan would have to conclude that on the Korean frontier she was taking a too domineering way with the Chinese Government. We have already shown what a very ancient question is the original matter of dispute, and if China had been as considerate to the Koreans as she now claims Japan should be to her, it could hardly have endured so long. The Japanese are not merely rounding off their hold on the peninsula, but acting, it is admitted, by request of the Koreans themselves for the benefit of the Koreans. We do not for a moment suppose that the hundred thousand Koreans resident in the disputed area have been begging the Japanese to rescue them from Chinese rule. That would be very unlikely; but it is not at all improbable that between absolute ownership by China and the nominal protectorate of Japan, they would favour even the hated Japanese in this controversy. It appears in any case that the Koreans southward have not abandoned the claim now being pressed on their behalf by the Japanese, and that the Japanese did not enter lightly upon the duty, without investigating, in their thorough way, the circumstances of the case. At no time has it been true to say that a Japanese force has seized the Chientao district. The force under Lieut. SAITO appears to consist of Korean police as well as a few Japanese gendarmes, and as we said some time ago, their object was not to intimidate the Chinese officials there but to restore order to what had become, particularly since the war, a very lawless district. It was China who first gave the place the appearance of an armed camp, and the situation the semblance of a crisis, by sending to the support of its official there a thousand soldiers, a number unusually large for such an outpost. Japan protested that this was too much like a threat in connection with a question then undergoing peaceful diplomatic discussion, but it is now officially denied that a demand was made for the withdrawal of the troops. Knowing the manners of a Chinese official so far from central control, in such a situation, it is not a hard thing to believe, as is alleged, that the Chinese officials on the spot have sought to carry matters with a high hand; and in confirmation of the allegation, there are the Chinese proclamations to the residents which have already been reported in our columns. The Japanese have been advising an independent survey of the disputed boundary; the Chinese have maintained that their case is proved in ancient documents, although it is well known that there is at least a reasonable doubt as to which of the two rivers is meant to be named therein. It is obvious that the Chinese demand for Lieut. SAITO's retirement was bluff, and that whether too peremptorily refused or not, it should never have been made while the matter was still *sub judice*. The fact that there has been no further development since the rumour of reference to the Hague was contradicted, seems to indicate that there is still hope of peaceable settlement. Our recent telegrams from Tokyo indicate Japan's faith in the Korean case, and Peking is probably merely engaged in the operation of "saving face." The rabid comments of the chauvinistic Chinese papers, as bitter against all foreigners as

against the Japanese, should not count in the formation of foreign opinion on the merits of the present dispute.

R FORM FROM BELOW.

(Daily Press, December 21st.)

A WRITER in the *Spectator* (signing himself E. G. J. M.), who is evidently well acquainted with Chinese affairs, hits the exact point in reference to reforms in China. He takes exception to a statement which was made in that paper to the effect that nothing good would ever happen in the Provinces until something creditable is done at Peking, and after explaining at length the independent position of the Viceroy in the different Provinces, he comes to the conclusion that "the regeneration of China, if it comes, will be accomplished by a series of local and provincial efforts and movements which may gradually be combined in a general advance, forcing by direct or indirect pressure the hands of the Central Government, or perhaps facilitating the accomplishment of its aims, if it should ever be inspired by a genuine spirit of reform." It would perhaps be difficult to describe more accurately the process which is actually going on in China than in the words above quoted, and they would afford good ground for hopefulness but for the prudent, if somewhat discouraging, qualification in the last few words: if it (the Central Government) should ever be inspired by a genuine spirit of reform." There is unfortunately a great deal too much in that to make it possible for the most sanguine to feel absolute confidence in the possibility of general reform in China by aid of the Central Government, who it is too much to be feared will never be penetrated by a genuine desire for reform. It is only great pressure, we may be quite certain, that will ever move them in this direction; and the chief danger that has to be faced is that the conservative instincts at the Capital may prevent the Central Government making terms with the changes in China as it exists in the present day as compared with the China with its old world ways and traditions with which alone they are familiar. The independence of the Provincial and local authorities has always been the great difficulty with which they have had to contend. As the writer under notice observes, in large as well as small matters the Provincial administrations exercise a very free hand. It is notorious that edicts from the Imperial Government are constantly evaded and often completely ignored by Provincial magnates—and the Central Government has been willing to shut its eyes to derelictions of this character so long as something like order has been maintained. At the same time they have not been insensible to the slight thus shown to their authority, and would gladly, if possible, put an end to so unsatisfactory a state of affairs. The more reactionary among the Central officials have never hesitated, in China as elsewhere, to look for a remedy in increased assertion of authority, and have hoped that would succeed by exerting more pressure than they have used hitherto, in strengthening themselves against this standing opposition. Circumstances of late years have in some respects been in their favour. The introduction of railways and telegraphs has brought the Provincial authorities much more under the central control, and so far modern improvements have worked in their favour. Of this the Peking authorities are by no means insensible; and it is not surprising that many may have hoped that the old difficulty might be much modified, if not completely got over, by the altered

conditions of intercommunication. But simultaneously with this change, there have been local changes of an equally potent character; and if intercommunication has given more power to the Central authorities, the spread of advanced ideas on modern appliances in different parts of the Empire, has given new force to the localism against which the Imperial Government has to contend. Thus with those who still hope that China may be reformed upon comparatively conservative lines, namely without any too sudden or too marked change upon the old order of things—which unquestionably would be the best policy—the first problem to be solved is that of bringing the Central and Provincial authorities more into harmony. It is only under such conditions that any general representative system for the whole Empire could be worked with any hope of success. And this change must be brought about by improvements in both directions simultaneously. The problem in China translated into European ideas is thus one as much of consolidation as of reform, or perhaps to speak more accurately, of consolidation combined with and going *pari passu* with reform. The government of the Viceroy must come at once more into harmony with the Central authorities on the one side, and of the people under the Viceroy on the other; and the changes which have to be brought about must in the first instance be rather matters of compromise than the sudden assertion of completely new principles. So far, therefore, as popular representation is concerned, this will probably be only possible in the first instance in individual provinces—but something in the form of local Parliaments might be introduced, subject to a supreme Council which in the course of time would no doubt develop into some form of Imperial Parliament. That the Peking authorities will be slow to introduce the necessary changes can be readily understood, but, conservative as they are, they cannot but be aware that the time has come when it is no longer possible to hold the empire together unless the Government is brought into conformity with the true interests of the country and the legitimate rights and aspirations of the people.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 19th instant in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL R. G. BROADWOOD, C.B., A.C.D., General Officer Commanding the Troops.

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. W. REES DAVIES (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Commander BASIL R. H. TAYLOR, R. N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. H. KESWICK.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 63 to 65, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 11), and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

CLEANLINESS AND VENTILATION BYELAWS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I have the honour to move the approval by this honourable Council of a bylaw under section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, to amend No. 5 of the Domestic Cleanliness and Ventilation Byelaws contained in schedule B of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance. The object of this Bylaw, Sir, is to limit the cleansing and limewashing of tenement buildings to once a year instead of twice, as under the bylaw as it now exists, and also to eliminate from the provisions of the bylaw certain domestic buildings, including Chinese shops.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

THE HARBOUR OF REFUGE AND STATUTES.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked the following questions standing in his name:—

1. Will the Government state what steps it is taking in connection with the proposed construction of an additional harbour of refuge?

2. Will the Government consider the advisability of introducing legislation, as to the proof in this Colony of the statutes of British possessions and protectorates, framed upon similar terms to the Evidence (Colonial Statutes) Act, 1907?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied:—

1. A scheme for the construction of a new shelter has been prepared and awaits consideration by the Public Works Committee to whom it has been again referred as it involves much greater expenditure than was originally estimated.

2. The Government is prepared to consider the matter with a view to introducing legislation.

FIRE BRIGADE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Fire Brigade Ordinance, 1868."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned until after the meeting of the Finance Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the Colonial Secretary presiding. The following votes were passed:—

POLICE AND PRISON VOTE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of two hundred and forty-five dollars (\$245) in aid of the vote Police and Prison Departments, A.—Police, Other Charges, Secret Services.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of one hundred and ninety-three dollars (\$193) in aid of the vote Medical Departments, B.—Hospitals and Asylums for the following items:—

Other Charges.

Lunatic Asylums—Incidental Expenses	\$17.60
Hospital bulk <i>Hygeia</i> —Provisions, &c.	24.18
Victoria Hospital for Women and Children—Provisions	151.22

Total \$193.00

POLICE AND PRISON DEPARTMENTS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One thousand eight hundred and thirty-four Dollars (\$1,834) in aid of the vote Police and Prison Departments, B.—Fire Brigade, Other Charges, Typhoon Damages.

On Council resuming, the COLONIAL SECRETARY reported that Financial Minutes Nos. 63, 64 and 65 had been considered by the Finance Committee, who had unanimously recommended their adoption. He moved, therefore, that the minutes be now adopted.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned *sine die*.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, December 13th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM FOR BOARD AND LODGING.

Li-Lai-chun sought to recover from Caroline Holm the sum of \$105 due for board and lodging. The plaintiff was represented by Mr. Crowther Smith (of Messrs. Almad and Smith) while the defendant appeared in person.

Plaintiff told the Court that the defendant went to live at his house in the month of May, and agreed to pay him \$35 a month. She had paid nothing since July 4th, and the plaintiff claimed till October 5th.

Defendant informed his Lordship that she went to reside with plaintiff on May 27th, and left on December 13th without giving notice. She paid \$35 a month for the four months, but did not get a receipt. She admitted owing \$35 for the month of September.

Plaintiff, recalled, said he had received only one payment.

His Lordship (to defendant)—Another time you had better get receipts and keep them when you board and lodge with anyone. You will have to pay. There will be judgment and costs for plaintiff.

A SOLICITOR'S UNDERTAKING.

Kwong Tse-king brought action against Messrs. Denny and Bowley to recover the sum of \$100 due for taxed costs in the case of Ip Tsung-nin v. Kwong Tse-king. Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiffs, the defendants being represented by Mr. B. L. Bowley.

Mr. Bowley asked that the case be allowed to stand over *sine die*, pending the decision of the Full Court on the appeal. The Full Court had granted a stay of execution in the case of Ip Tsung-nin, and the present case arose out of that action.

Mr. Grist—I am opposed to any stay of execution in this case, because the Full Court acted *ultra vires* in granting a stay of execution in the other case.

His Lordship—I cannot go into that.

Mr. Grist—Again, the Full Court cannot affect a solicitor's undertaking to pay.

His Lordship—That is another matter, but you must not raise the point of *ultra vires* before me.

Mr. Grist—I don't think your Lordship is bound by the decision of the Full Court. It had not power to make such an order.

His Lordship—That does not matter at all. You must apply to the Full Court to upset that order.

Mr. Grist—I shall show, even if the stay is good, that it in no way affects a solicitor's undertaking to pay.

The case was adjourned.

Monday, December 16th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

THE PIRATED JUNK CASE: IRREGULAR PROCEDURE.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (of Messrs. Denny and Bowley) appeared to apply for leave to appeal from the decision of Mr. H. H. J. Gemperts, Acting Puisne Judge, which was delivered on November 26th in the summary action between Ip Tsung-nin and Kwong Tse-king.

The Chief Justice—No notice of motion has been filed.

The Puisne Judge—There is only one notice of motion; that is the Attorney-General's, and it is dead.

Sir Henry Berkeley—There was a notice of motion on the change of solicitors on the file. Your Lordships will remember what took place on the day I moved last.

The Puisne Judge—We gave you till 10.30 this morning to proceed. You have got a proceed in the proper way, but you have not done so.

Sir Henry Berkeley—We have got to proceed by giving notice of motion. When solicitors are changed the original motion stands.

The Chief Justice—The original motion has been held to be bad. Counsel in that was held to have no *locus standi*, therefore that notice of motion is bad. The obvious course is to file a new notice of motion.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I would ask your Lordships' attention to page 329—

The Chief Justice—Let me ask you before you take that point. Why has not the solicitor adopted the simplest course and the ordinary course?

Sir Henry Berkeley—What is that, my Lord?

The Chief Justice—To file a new notice of motion.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Because he thought it sufficient as it was.

The Chief Justice—But he couldn't have thought it sufficient, because it is not a quarter of an hour ago that change of notice has been filed.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The motion was adjourned, and time was saved by your Lordships' order.

The Puisne Judge—You were allowed up till 10.30 to put yourself in proper order.

The Chief Justice—This is my note: Sir Henry Berkeley, instructed by Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, applies for leave to extend motion for appeal. Leave granted. That means for you to apply in the ordinary way by notice of motion.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I would ask your Lordships to extend the power you have under section 34 of the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance. Time there is limited to seven days from the date of judgment, but your Lordships will find a proviso to the following effect: "That seven days is fixed provided always that the Full Court may in its discretion extend the time limit for such application either before or after the application thereof." I ask you to allow notice to be given now. This is a very important question, and will be burked if we are not heard because of a technicality.

The Chief Justice—I don't think you should use the word burked, but you possibly did not mean it. It rather suggests that the Court is declining to hear the motion, whereas it is a defect in procedure that has been adopted.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Then allow me to substitute the words "opportunity lost." I ask your Lordships to exercise that discretion, as the present procedure is due to a misapprehension.

The Puisne Judge—How is it a misapprehension when he finds there is some sort of mistake and endeavours to patch it up?

Sir Henry Berkeley—It is a misapprehension which was discovered either by advice or otherwise. Why should the Court be unwilling to hear this application? On the face of it, if your Lordships read the judgment, you will see that it cannot be sustained.

The Chief Justice—Five days have now elapsed. If it is an important matter the solicitor should have taken immediate steps. He has not taken a single step.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Why won't you use your discretion, my Lords? Why penalise us?

The Chief Justice—There must be some reasonable grounds.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I understood the motion had been adjourned.

The Chief Justice—It could not be adjourned.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Allow me to file a notice now?

The Puisne Judge—No.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Why not exercise your discretion?

The Puisne Judge—It is not a case of discretion at all.

The Chief Justice—The solicitor has not taken the necessary steps, so the Court cannot possibly recognise you.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Had I filed the motion five days ago would you have heard me?

The Chief Justice—Certainly.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Then why not hear it *nunc pro tunc*; why punish the appellant when I can satisfy you as regards the judgment?

The Puisne Judge—You ought to have proceeded in *forma pauperis*. Costs are at the bottom of the whole thing.

Sir Henry Berkeley—That is not the point. Why will you not hear me? Punish me if you will.

The Chief Justice—If we were to hear you now we would be sanctioning all sorts of delays and irregular proceedings which we cannot do.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Mere irregularities can always be overlooked, and I can assure your Lordships we were all under the belief that it was merely a question whether the Attorney-General or Counsel should appear. If I had any idea that there would have been a question raised as to the validity of the notice I should have filed another.

The Chief Justice—Up to ten o'clock the impression on my mind was that the application had been abandoned. The matter was allowed to stand by, and at the last moment this notice has been filed.

Sir Henry Berkeley—No one can be prejudiced if you give me leave.

The Chief Justice—Yes, the other side can.

Sir Henry Berkeley—If you read the judgment you will see that it is radically wrong. The sale took place in Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist's office, and you cannot have a market overt in a solicitor's office. It is a very important point to decide that Shaikwan is a market overt for ships. I would ask your Lordships to extend your powers under section 34.

The Chief Justice—I want to say one thing more. It was quite a misapprehension that we granted a stay of execution in the case. What I intended to convey was that, pending the hearing of the Attorney-General, we wished the parties to remain *in statu quo*. It was only a stay of execution up to that moment, merely for two or three days until we could hear the Attorney-General. We cannot possibly hear you.

APPEAL FROM A DECISION OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

An appeal was made from a judgment of his Honour the Chief Justice delivered on May 6th in which he found in favour of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. the respondents in the present case. The appellants are the Lombard Steamship Co., Ltd., Sir Henry Berkeley, instructed by Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the appellants, and the hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Jackson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the respondents.

Sir Henry Berkeley stated that the appeal was from a judgment of the Chief Justice in an action tried before him sitting alone on the 29th and 30th April and the 1st May, whereby in effect he held that the plaintiffs, Messrs. Carlowitz and Co., who had chartered the s.s. *Salamanca* from the Lombard S. S. Co. on February 7th, 1902, were justified in repudiating that charter because of the default of the owners of the *Salamanca* in not carrying out the undertaking on their part with some people who were called Ostacia, the sub-charterers of the ship from Messrs. Carlowitz and Co. who had re-chartered her to the United States Government for the purposes of that Government in Manila. The judgment went on to say that his Lordship found the United States Government were entitled to repudiate the charter, and that thereupon the Ostacia were entitled to repudiate the sub-charter from Carlowitz and Co., and that Carlowitz and Co. were entitled to repudiate their charter from the Lombard S. S. Co. That was shortly the effect of the judgment, and he now desired to ask the Court to take another view from that taken *nisi prius* at the original hearing. Owing to the limited number composing the Court—a defect which the Chief Justice had more than once pointed out—he had practically to reargue the case before the Full Court. Counsel believed that he would be able to convince his Honour the Chief Justice that the view taken by him on that particular occasion was, he respectfully used the word, erroneous. The first document to which he invited attention was the writ of summons.

The Puisne Judge—Pardon me for interrupting, but you must give me credit for knowing something about the case, as I have read through the papers.

Sir Henry Berkeley—With your capacity for rapid digestion I am quite certain you will be able to follow me.

The Chief Justice—I might mention that I said on the last hearing I considered this an extremely difficult case.

Sir Henry Berkeley, proceeding, said he wanted the Court to get into their minds exactly what the plaintiffs were claiming for in the Court below. The writ of summons stated that the plaintiffs' claim was for the sum of \$12,000 for the breach of the charter party of the British steamer *Salamanca* entered into in Hongkong on February 7th, 1902. Counsel then referred the Court to the statement of claim, and stated that paragraph 9, paraphrased, meant that what the plaintiffs did, or what they neglected to do in respect to the charter by the Ostacia to the United States Government, constituted a breach by them of the original charter party. They stated that the appellants' omission justified the United States Government in repudiating the re-charter. What seemed to him to be the claim of the plaintiffs he submitted to be altogether unreasonable. It was unreasonable that the original charterer should have the right to terminate his charter merely because the re-charter was repudiated by the United States Government, even granting for the sake of argument that the United States Government were justified in cancelling it. The proposition he would argue was, Assuming the United States Government to have been entitled to cancel owing to the owners' default, that the effect of the cancellation was to throw the ship back on the hands of the sub-charterers for the purpose of the sub-charter. And that the remedy of the sub-charterers was not to repudiate, but to bring an action for damages against the owners to recover compensation for any loss which the sub-charterers may have sustained by having the ship thrown back on them under the sub-charter, instead of being more profitably employed by the United States Government. So by process of reasoning they arrived at the original charterer, whose remedy with the sub-charterer was not to repudiate, but to bring action against him to compel him to carry out the sub-charter.

The Chief Justice—Assuming that proposition to be true, what you say is that it applies to a case where a knowledge of the re-charter runs all the way through and affects all parties.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Yes. Knowledge affects the question of damages.

The Chief Justice—One of the points I decided was that there was knowledge all the way through.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The re-charter was for the carriage of warlike munitions in and about the Philippine Islands during the time the United States Government were at war with the Filipinos. Your Lordship went on further to say that Carlowitz and Co. had no interest in the re-charter, and that the Ostacia had to pay \$1,750 altogether; \$1,000 to the owners for their consent to employ the ship outside the sub-charter, and \$750 to Carlowitz and Co., so that Carlowitz and Co. received nothing more because of the re-charter by the United States Government.

The Chief Justice—You accept that?

Mr. Pollock—I don't think your Lordship held that. My friend is going further when he says that the extra payment to Carlowitz and Co. had nothing at all to do with the extra charter to the United States Government.

Sir Henry Berkeley—You came to the conclusion that Carlowitz had no interest in the charter to the United States Government; that it was a matter between that Government and the Ostacia with the consent of the owners, who for giving their consent were paid by the Ostacia \$100 a month extra. Continuing, Counsel said he would argue the case on the basis that the Ostacia were principals, and not the agents, in the agreement with the owners by which the owners consented to the re-charter. It would be convenient here to examine the re-charter which was dated July 1st, 1902. The only parties to that document were the Ostacia and the United States Government. That re-charter was for purposes which might be called warlike purposes. It was not a trading charter, as the purpose of it was to carry troops and stores. If the Court looked further into it they would find that it had not a single provision contained in the original charter. In the Chief Justice's judgment he pointed out that no reference was

made to the original charter. There were no exceptions as perils of the sea in the re-charter.

Mr. Pollock—Yes, there are.

Sir Henry Berkeley stated that none of the provisions of either the original or the sub-charter were incorporated into the re-charter, except the stipulation that the amount to be paid should be the same. That meant that the United States Government were to pay to the Ostacia the same sum as Carlowitz and Co. paid to the owners, \$6000 odd a month. What the plaintiffs claimed was that they had a duty under this re-charter to the charterers to keep the ship at all times at the disposal of the United States Government for the purpose of the re-charter. That he was prepared to concede. Having given their consent as owners to the employment of the ship under the re-charter, and having control of the master and crew, it undoubtedly was the duty of the owners to keep the ship at all times, as was reasonably possible, ready to perform the re-charter. He put it to the Court that supposing the appellants had failed to perform their duty, that could not possibly give Carlowitz and Co. the right to repudiate the original charter. What they were liable to in consequence of their breach was to make good to the Ostacia any pecuniary loss sustained by them in consequence of the appellants' failure to perform the duty which they owed to them and the United States Government in respect of the re-charter.

Hon. Mr. Pollock referred to the statement of claim, in which clause 5 of the original charter was substantially set out, and on that they pleaded that no charter money was due while the vessel was off the charter party. No notice was given to plaintiffs until August—though the wreck was in July—that the vessel was off the charter, and charter money was paid for the whole of July. As an alternative claim, plaintiffs then pleaded they were entitled to the amounts paid in ignorance—irrespective of whether the charter had been rightly or wrongly cancelled. Even if it was found that the respondents were totally wrong in cancelling the charter, it did not follow that the appellants would succeed on the counter claim. The cancelling of the charter party in September, 1902, was the act of the United States Government, not the act of the respondents, and the extra charter money was lost through the act of the American Government. For that act respondents could not be held liable. The *Salamanca* was wrecked near Manila, and remained in dock for a couple of months. Then she had to start afresh on an entirely new and independent voyage. With respect to the implied contract to have the ship ready with all possible despatch, as referred to by Sir Henry Berkeley, Counsel argued that an actual breach of an express contract—not an implied contract—for the failure to pay the Dock Company's bill was not an excepted peril. The vessel was arrested by the Dock and was kept under arrest for some time. The admissions of facts by the appellants showed that this delay frustrated the charter. The United States Government were entitled to cancel the charter; the substance of it was that the ship was to be employed continuously by the said Government, certain happenings excepted. If the United States had grounds for cancelling, it was competent for Carlowitz and Co. to do so.

Sir Henry Berkeley pointed out that had the Dock bill been paid on the 20th, the United States would have continued the charter and then, he asked, where would respondents have been with their notice of cancellation of the 15th? The vessel was actually handed over and was ready to sail when she was seized. The purposes of the voyage were not frustrated; another ship was chartered and the only remedy for the delay was an action for compensation.

The case was adjourned.

Wednesday, December 18th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

FORGERY CHARGE ADJOURNED.

Lam Wing, Hau Kee, Li Hi-shin and Hop Wo-tong were placed in the dock on a charge of forgery.

The Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, Attorney-General, who was instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrall from the Crown Solicitor's office, said the four prisoners had been committed for trial on charges of forgery and uttering. He asked his Lordship to allow the case to stand over till next sessions. The solicitor on the other side, Mr. R. Harding, was quite agreeable to such a course.

His Lordship—How about the recognisances?

The Attorney-General—They propose, I understand, to offer \$2000 bail, and we propose to accept a joint bond of \$2000 cash.

His Lordship—For all four.

The Attorney-General—Yes, a joint bond.

His Lordship—For forgery?

The Attorney-General—The Crown Solicitor has considered the matter.

His Lordship—Very well, if you are satisfied Case adjourned.

PIRACY AND ROBBERY.

Wong Cheung-tai, Lam Shek-on, Chan Wa and Cheung Fo-shing were indicted on charges of piracy and robbery, and pleaded not guilty.

His Lordship—I see the indictment contains charges on Common Law as well as under the Ordinance. I have very grave doubts as to whether there is any Common Law offence existing after that provided by the Ordinance, and it makes it exceedingly difficult to explain matters to the jury.

The Attorney-General—We had some difficulty in framing the indictment, as it is a question whether it is piracy at all. The prisoners were committed for trial under an Ordinance which had no application in this case; the Ordinance deals with the setting out for piracy. The question arises as to whether the offence was committed within the waters of the Colony, or on the high seas. In order to constitute piracy at Common Law it must be within the jurisdiction of the Admiralty.

His Lordship—I think any question with regard to the indictment is taken before the plea of the prisoners, and we must put this matter perfectly straight, the same as if the prisoners were defended. That being so I think we should clear up this first question on the indictment. I see your charge says on the high seas. That would be piracy by International law, and therefore piracy by Common Law. But does it fall outside the Piracy Statutes? They are in force in the Colony, you know.

The Attorney-General—I was doubtful if that was so.

His Lordship—In the constitution of the Colony the Statutes are in force. In 1841 they were in force in the Colony, therefore the old Piracy Statutes are now in force.

The Attorney-General—I am not sure that the Piracy Statutes actually meet the case.

His Lordship—I think those points should be taken.

The Attorney-General—I will explain to your Lordship my position in the matter. The evidence apparently shows that the offence was committed in territorial waters.

His Lordship—Lama Island, that is within the waters of the Colony, and that being so you don't want the Piracy Statutes.

The Attorney-General—I have based the counts on a direct precedent of a case tried in this Court.

His Lordship—This question has never been raised before.

The Attorney-General—In the other case the charge was merely one of armed robbery, although it took place at sea. In the present case, assuming the evidence shows the offence to have been committed on the high seas, it is a case of piracy. If it does not, then it is robbery.

His Lordship—I think, if your evidence is that the offence took place at Lama Island, I should drop the Common Law counts.

The Attorney-General—As your Lordship pleases.

The following jurors were then called:—C Glover (foreman), T. Seggie, A. Ogilvie, A. M. Jaffer, H. E. Craddock, I. S. Levy and E. Howard.

The Attorney-General told the jury that the charge against the prisoners at the bar was armed robbery within the waters of the Colony. It appeared that on November 14th four men were fishing on a junk at a place near Lama Island. At about eight o'clock at night, as

they were hauling in their fishing net, another boat approached which had a crew of six men. When the vessel ran alongside three of these men boarded the fishing junk, all being armed with knives, revolvers or some kind of firearms. One of the four men on the fishing craft was either pushed, or fell overboard. The boarders then asked the master of the fisher where he kept his money, and on being told, descended into the hold and found the box, which contained \$54 in twenty and ten cent pieces. They also secured some fish, oars and other small things on board, and at the request of the fishermen, rescued the man who went overboard. When the robbers had transferred all the stolen property to their own junk they rowed away towards the east. The matter was reported that night by the four men to the police at Aberdeen. Some days later the same fishermen, while out in their junk, fell asleep, and awoke to see that four men armed with revolvers and other kinds of firearms had boarded their craft. These men demanded all the money the fishermen possessed, and stripped the boat of everything worth taking. This story was corroborated by all the prosecutors, but the difficulty would be as to the identification of the men. All the prosecutors would speak to certain of the prisoners, but it was a curious fact that no two could identify the same man. The stolen property was found by the police in a matchbox near where the prisoners were arrested.

After hearing the evidence the jury, without retiring, found all of the prisoners guilty on each count, and his Lordship sentenced them to five years imprisonment on each count, the sentences to run concurrently.

Thursday, December 19th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ENROLMENT OF A SOLICITOR.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, appeared in support of a motion for the admission of Mr. P. S. Dixon to the local Bar. He moved that Mr. Dixon be approved, admitted and enrolled to practise as a solicitor or proctor of this honourable Court. His Lordship had before him the affidavits made by Mr. Dixon, and by Mr. R. A. Harding, and Counsel asked him to make the usual order assenting to the motion. He might mention that Mr. Dixon's father was a Justice of the Peace for the County of Cumberland, and he had for three times acted as Mayor of Carlisle.

His Lordship—Mr. Dixon, I have read the papers through and found them in order. I have very much pleasure in welcoming you to the Court, and to order that your name should be added to the ever increasing roll of solicitors of the Court.

Mr. Dixon—I am much obliged to your Lordship for your kind remarks.

A PARTNERSHIP DISPUTE.

His Lordship delivered judgment in the action brought by the Kwong Fung Wo firm against the Wing Ki Cheong and the trial of the issue between the plaintiff firm and Chan Mau-chi, otherwise Chan Pui Sin-long, and Yim Wai-tak, alias Yim Ping kai alias Yim Quon, to decide whether the latter were partners in the Wing Ki Cheong.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. Sargent (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, for the defendants.

The Chief Justice said—I very much regret that when I was trying this action I had rather an acute attack of the prevalent complaint so common to the Colony at this time of the year, and therefore I am afraid certain points must have escaped me during the trial and I have got to do what I very much object to doing, that is notice in the judgment certain points which I did not put clearly or at all to Counsel, engaged, but I had so clear a view on those points that I did not think it necessary to put the parties to the trouble of further days' argument. First, I may say that this is another partnership issue in which the issue is fogged by the use of many names. I do not know whether

it is any use, but if it is any use, I strongly recommend some influential body of Chinese merchants to meet together and see if they cannot possibly abandon these *tong* names—either to abandon it themselves (the use of it) or to abandon dealing with partners, firms, in which *tong* names are used. A great number of issues come before the Court and the Court Counsel and everybody engaged are busily endeavouring to unravel what the parties know perfectly well is the truth. I may be absolutely wrong in the conclusions I have come to but all I can say is that it is the parties' own fault for using *tong* names and dealing with firms who use them and not taking sufficient precautions to see that the actual partners are really known. Now, as to Yim Quon: There is a curious slip in the procedure with regard to this issue that is in the form of the partnership issue, it is directed to inquire whether two different people are partners in the firm. They are really two distinct issues and should not have been combined in one. The evidence in one is not evidence in the other. The two persons alleged to be partners stand on an entirely different footing. They are not co-defendants at all but unfortunately they were so treated and, if admitted, an exceedingly ingenious argument into the mouth of the plaintiff's Counsel. With regard to Yim Quon S I indicated when Sir Henry Berkeley moved for a nonsuit that I had very grave doubts as to whether there really was a case against him and I still have doubts, because the *prima facie* evidence against him is accordance with the rule I will indicate presently is practically the fact of his having had dinner in the guest room and that is consistent with the respect that might be shown to a landlord visiting his premises as to his being a partner. But I assume there is just enough evidence to satisfy the rule which I shall refer to presently in order that Pun Sik Chi's evidence may be admitted as a statement made with regard to him and by his authority. But this confirmatory evidence is the evidence of one man only and on the other side there is a double denial, a denial by Yim Quon and also a denial by Chan Mau Chi of the fact that he introduced him as a partner and I think it will be too dangerous on such slender evidence to find that he was a partner. But then it was said supposing I were to find that Chan Mau Chi was a partner that would show Pun Sik Chi's evidence to be trustworthy in that respect and so trustworthy in Yim Quon's issue and also that Chan Mau Chi's is unreliable. The two defendants are not joint defendants and I must treat Yim Quon as entirely distinct from Chan Mau Chi. The evidence of the one could not be brought to support the case against Yim Quon. No jury would find on that evidence and as far as the issue against Yim Quon is concerned he must have judgment. And now as to Chan Mau Chi: The first objection was taken to the reception of the evidence of Pun Sik Chi. I think on consideration it was properly taken but my ruling must only be considered to apply to a trial before a judge, because he can do what a jury is supposed to, or very likely cannot do, omit from consideration evidence which has in fact been given. I do not see any harm in admitting the evidence as I did admit it, because the learned Counsel opened with the fact that *prima facie* evidence would be given as to the partnership and that confirmatory evidence by persons in the positions of Pun Sik Chi could be admitted. I think it is a mistake to say that the current of authorities requires a partnership to be proved up to the hilt before such confirmatory evidence can be admitted. It is sufficient to show a sufficient *prima facie* case that a reasonable man might come to the conclusion that there might have been a partnership and that these statements as being on the authority of the alleged partner should come in to confirm the *prima facie* case. With regard to the admission of the letters I confess on consideration that I am doubtful whether they should have been admitted, and if it were necessary for me to reply on them in the decision I am going to give, I think I should have asked that that point be further argued. Now the case put forward is that some witnesses say that Chan Mau Chi took part in the management or consultations with regard to the management of the business; that at the

firm's opening festival dinner he sat in one of the seats of the hosts. This is a quite sufficient *prima facie* case of the partnership and then it is reinforced by Pun Sik Chi's statements which we may now take to have been made on authority. The partnership was denied but the defendant undertook to show who Chan Pui Sin *tong*—the *tong* name in the partnership book—really is. I think some capital was made out of this quite legitimately, but I doubt very much whether, the circumstances being as we know, it could have been avoided. In fact, the documents put in showed that that was the case from the very beginning. These books profess to show that Chan Pui Sin *tong* was Chan Chun Chiu (deceased), and that Chan Mau Chi acted for his widow and that all he did, or is alleged to have done, if he did anything at all, was done on behalf of the widow. Now here is a point of some interest. Chan Mau Chi puts forward a case which depends on a fraud of the revenue laws, not committed by him, but connived at and assisted by him. The proper course to substantiate a case of that course would be to put in the probate taken out by the widow but she did not take out any and I am not quite sure whether the case does not break down here, but I have no authority at hand to justify my opinion, so I will not press it. But two things I am certain of: If I give judgment for Chan Mau Chi a fine would be inflicted on someone for removing papers from the jurisdiction without taking out probate and secondly it raises a suspicion against the bona fides of the case. I cannot accept the view that this is often done by Chinese as an excuse. The Courts are bound to support the revenue laws of the Colony and I should be doing wrong in according to a document removed in contravention of the revenue laws the same weight as I should attach to a document free of suspicion. Then there is another way of looking at it. The law provides a means of justifying the title to the property of a deceased in the person justly entitled to it. It awards a public document which in itself is a document of title and if a person does not choose to adopt the course the law provides they must take the consequences and one of the consequences in this case would undoubtedly have been that if I found Chan Mau Chi a partner he would have to bear all the costs of the case, because the suit was started entirely through his own neglect or the person for whom he was acting in not taking out probate and so justifying his title, if that title is true. If there had been probate as the law requires then the plaintiffs, having a public document to which they could refer, would not have made their allegations of partnership, and therefore, as I say, supposing Chan Mau Chi was held to be a partner he would undoubtedly have to pay a large proportion, if not all the costs of the issue. This is not all: Another suspicious circumstance is that the books on which much reliance was placed to show who Chan Pui Sin *tong* really was, are produced from the keeping of the widow which is in fraud of the bankruptcy laws and this adds a further suspicion to a case which from its very inception has been suspicious. If I had any doubt left about the unsoundness of the defendant's case it is set at rest by another curious consideration one of those which unfortunately escaped me at the trial. Chan Pui Sin *Tong*'s copy of the partnership agreement had written on it in large imposing characters the alleged real partner's name. That is to say, on a book which was the private property of a partner and which was not intended to be seen by other partners at all, which was to remain in his own keeping, had written on it in startling characters the name, which it is the admitted object of the use of the *tong* name to conceal; and it was written at the same time as the scribe of the firm was writing the *tong* names so carefully and beautifully. I do not believe this is possible and I do not believe any jury would believe so either. These three points lead me to a very clear opinion that the case set up by Chan Mau Chi as to who really is the owner of the *tong* name has broken down and it is unnecessary for me to go into the many minor points which confused this issue and made it exceedingly difficult to unravel. Therefore by the failure of the defendants to prove what they set out to prove sets up the

plaintiff's case which I must accept. I cannot call it a very strong one and I cannot omit to refer to the fact that Pun Sik Chi does not seem to have behaved very honourably to the firm, whose credit has been attacked on this ground. I may add, that if I had based my decision on the documents and letters, assuming them to have been properly received in evidence, I would have given judgment against Chan Mau Chi who juggled with his case and said he acted and spoke as these letters say he did, but in the capacity as representative of the widow. If I am wrong he has only got himself to blame.

Therefore judgment will be on the issue with regard to Yim Quon, for Yim Quon, and in the issue with regard to Chan Mau Chi for the plaintiff. The Registrar will have no difficulty in discriminating between the costs.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

APPLICATION TO RESCIND.

Re the Cheong Wing Bank.

Mr. G. Grist (of Messrs Wilkinson and Grist) said he appeared in support of an application to rescind the receiving order made in this bankruptcy. All the creditors were satisfied with the exception of those for whom Mr. Master appeared.

Mr. Master said there was a claim by a man from Singapore. He was to obtain counsel's advice that day on the matter.

His Lordship—Then it would be better to fix an early date for the hearing.

Mr. Master—I will have to get my client from Singapore.

The matter was adjourned.

A SOLVENT DEBTOR.

Re James Campbell Logan.

Mr. M. J. D. Stephens applied for the annulling of this bankruptcy order. The petition was filed with reference to an action brought by a man named Watkins. This action had been settled satisfactorily to Mr. Watkins, and consequently there was no further reason for proceeding with the bankruptcy. The bankrupt was solvent, and the creditors who had proved their debts were satisfied to annul the order.

The Official Receiver said he had written to all the creditors. Most of them had answered and said they had no objection.

His Lordship—Have all had notice?

Mr. Kemp—Yes, my Lord.

His Lordship—Have you any objection?

Mr. Kemp—No, my Lord.

His Lordship (to Mr. Stephens)—What do you propose to pay?

Mr. Stephens—We propose to pay in full. We are solvent. The reason the bankruptcy petition was filed was that one of the creditors

Watkins—commenced an action for a large sum of money, and if he had succeeded in that action he would have left the other creditors out in the cold. So the debtor filed his petition in bankruptcy in the meantime. He showed the Official Receiver he really was not bankrupt and why he took that step.

His Lordship—The simplest thing is to allow the bankrupt to go on paying his bills.

Mr. Kemp—The bankrupt's father paid the amount of a promissory note to Watkins. Nothing can be paid out of the estate by me except in the nature of a dividend.

His Lordship—I cannot annul the bankruptcy until the creditors are paid. How much assets have you?

Mr. Kemp—We have a launch, and there are over \$1,000 in hand.

His Lordship—What about the debts?

Mr. Kemp—A large debt is due to the bankrupt's father, and there is a debt to his mother.

His Lordship—I must have a report from the Official Receiver that he is satisfied.

The matter was accordingly adjourned, pending a report from Mr. Kemp.

ADVANTAGEOUS TO CREDITORS.

Re the Ki Cheong Firm, application for approval of a scheme of arrangement.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley said he had, as directed by the Court, given notice to the dissentient creditors, and to those who did not vote for the scheme. There had been no appearance in reply.

The Official Receiver had at first objected to the scheme but he now believed its acceptance would be advantageous to the creditors.

The Chief Justice, after persuing the scheme, said it did not seem a very satisfactory one but there did not appear to be any tangible reason why he should disapprove of it.

Mr. Bowley—Will your Lordship fix the security of the trustees. I understand the Official Receiver fixes the amount at \$20,000 each. The Chief Justice—Very well.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

INSUFFICIENT PARTICULARS.

Action was brought by Chan Yuen-lun, trading under the name of Kwong Sing Lung, to recover of Cho Kan, trading as the Kwong Tak Lung, the sum of \$289.54. Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Otto Kong Sing for the defendant.

Mr. Grist—Plaintiff's claim is for \$289.54, balance due for goods sold and delivered as per particulars. Your Lordship will see that three items for stone total \$786.59, and there is a credit given for \$497.05, leaving a balance due of the amount claimed. I have received from my friend a letter dated December 7th in which he said he had paid \$117 into Court in satisfaction of the plaintiff's claim. That is not a sufficient specification of the items he admits and I am not able to accept that money, because I cannot go into the matter and see how it is the \$117 arises. Your Lordship will see by the Code that in paying in money the defendant is obliged to say how he arrives at the figure which he pays into Court. Otherwise the plaintiff cannot really ascertain his position; he does not know whether he has got to fight the action, or whether it is better to accept that amount in settlement. Therefore I submit in this case that either I go on with the action and do not treat this as a payment in, or that the matter should stand over for my friend to specify how he makes up the money. This is practically a statement of account between the parties.

His Lordship—You are not prepared to take the \$117 in full satisfaction?

Mr. Grist—No, my Lord. I don't know how it is arrived at.

Mr. Kong Sing—I can point that out Your Lordship will see on the writ particulars of the three items. As a matter of fact this work was done under a contract and payments were made to the plaintiff, or at his request. It is impossible for me to render the particulars my friend wants, more especially as he claims a balance. My books show conclusively what items are missing from the plaintiff's books, and if my friend does not care to take the money he can go on with the case.

Mr. Grist—Quite so, my Lord. And if I obtain judgment I am entitled to costs. My friend is obliged to show how he arrives at his particulars.

Mr. Kong Sing—The letter I wrote to my friend was sent before the writ was issued. If he wanted particulars my books were open for inspection.

His Lordship—I think you had better go on unless the plaintiff is prepared to accept.

Mr. Grist—If we go on I would ask to be allowed my costs, even if I don't succeed, because my friend was obviously at fault under the Code in not furnishing particulars, and how they were arrived at.

Mr. Kong Sing—If I succeed I will ask for costs from November 18th. I submit my friend is not entitled to recover under the writ.

His Lordship—You've paid in.

Mr. Kong Sing—Yes, but he is not entitled to recover; and I am entitled to ask for a non-suit.

His Lordship—Well, we had better get on. Plaintiff was then put in the box, and after his evidence had been taken, the Court rose.

Messrs E. S. Kadoorie & Co. are in receipt of telegraphic advices from Shanghai informing them that the Oriental Consolidated Gold Mining Co. Ltd. have declared a dividend of 60 cents (gold) per share.

THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY CASE.

Before Mr. C. D. Melbourne at the Police Court on December 16th the case was continued in which Yeung Fuk-san, Yue Sui-san and Chan Kam-tong were charged on several counts with conspiring to defraud. Mr. Otto Kong Sing and Mr. G. E. Morrell (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Almada and Smith) represented the defendants.

Chan Kam-tong was further cross-examined. He said he lent Lam Ching-wah \$5000. At the time of the loan he knew the borrower about half a month, but trusted to his broker regarding security.

What did you get as security for that \$5000?

Mr. Almada—I don't want to interrupt, but if my friend carries on the cross-examination in this way it will eat up the other cases. There is no prosecution in respect of these particular monies. The defendant is charged with obtaining from Chan Sing-on \$500 by means of gambling or false pretences. My friend is cross-examining the defendant on the other charges, and I wish to hold the documents connected with those charges back to surprise the prosecution in cross-examination.

Mr. Kong Sing—You must not surprise them. You are disclosing your defence already.

Mr. Almada—I am disclosing my defence in this case, but not in the others.

His Worship—I will note the objection, but I cannot prevent the question being put.

What security did you get for that \$5000?—A written document.

There was no stamp on it?—I don't know. Did you write it?—It was written and signed by Lam Ching-wah.

Mr. Almada—Has this anything to do with the present charge, your Worship?

His Worship—What Mr. Kong Sing wants to find out is whether he had any money.

Mr. Almada—If he asked him that it would be sufficient.

Mr. Kong Sing—Would it? I want to prove that he had not and never had any money.

His Worship—I cannot disallow the question.

Mr. Almada—There is no question of your Worship's power to do so; and the asking of such questions is not fair to the defence.

Mr. Kong Sing—I submit I am perfectly entitled to examine this man as to his credibility.

His Worship—I cannot stop the question. And in exchange for it you handed over \$5000?—Yes.

Where?—At 43, Queen's Road Central, on the first floor of the Man Wo Tailoring shop.

Who else was there?—The first defendant and Ching Wah.

You did not know Ching Wah was a big contractor when you advanced the money?—No.

And you never brought an action for the amount?—No.

Did you ever receive any interest?—Yes, but I can't remember how much.

You told us Sing-on borrowed \$800?—No, I gave it as security.

To get you a position in the Sincere Co?—Yes.

How did you first get to know Sing-on?—I was introduced to him by the first defendant.

And that was your last \$800 you paid?—What do you mean? Do you expect a man would be penniless after paying away \$800?

Yuen Fuk-san, the first defendant, was next called to the witness stand. He said he had known Chan Sing-on about three months, and when he met him asked him to let witness know when there was a vacancy in Sincere and Co.

Chan Sing-on said there was a vacancy, but he would want \$1000 security. Witness then introduced the third defendant to Sincere's purchasing clerk, and the former paid Chan Sing-on \$800 to get him a position in the Sincere Co. Witness could not say whether the money had been repaid. He had never gambled with the complainant, and had never sat at a gambling table with him to defraud the third defendant.

Did you ever teach him to play fantan?—He is several tens of years old, and does not want a teacher.

Cross-examined—Witness did not introduce the complainant to the third defendant on Octo-

ber 26th. He was not the tenant of the house in Hollywood Road, but visited the second defendant, who was.

I put it to you, you have slept there?—Well sometime you know when you go on a visit you are likely to fall asleep.

You're a broker, aren't you?—Yes.

And formerly you were employed in Jebaan's?—Yes.

While so employed did you ever see an unstamped document given in acknowledgment of \$800?—That is a matter of trust.

Then you trusted this man you had known only a few days with \$800?—It was not a matter of trust. It was a matter of employment.

Further evidence was heard, and the hearing adjourned.

"FLYING THE WHITE PIGEON."

A CURIOUS CHINESE FRAUD.

An unusual case came on for hearing before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on Dec. 20th, when Detective-Sergeant Watt prosecuted Lee San and another for obtaining \$70 by false pretences.

Yeung San was the first witness for the prosecution. He told the Court that on the 1st instant the two defendants called at his father's shop in Wing Sing Street when he was present. The first woman told him that her husband was dead, and that she wanted someone to support her. Then his father was spoken to on the subject, and it was agreed that witness should take the first defendant as his concubine in consideration of a payment of \$70. The second defendant was the go-between. Witness paid the first defendant \$5 as bargain money, and she left the shop. On the 4th she returned and asked for \$10 to redeem something. This was paid, and again on the 9th both defendants called at the shop, and witness took them to his family house. There he procured \$55, the balance of the amount agreed upon, which his mother handed to the first defendant. On the 13th the first defendant said she was going away, so witness decided to take her before the Registrar-General. There she admitted that her husband was alive.

The father of the former witness remembered the visit of the defendants to his shop. The first woman told him that she wanted to get married as she owed a lot of money and had no rice to eat. Her husband was dead, and she was willing to become a concubine. Witness offered her \$60 to join his son's household, but she told him she would not take less than \$70. He agreed to this price, and the defendant asked him what would be a lucky day for her to join the son. He said the 9th instant, and it was arranged the final payment should be made on that day. On the 13th the defendant became ungrateful and was going to run away, so his son took her to the Registrar-General. Witness had previously told the second defendant to be on the lookout for a good and suitable woman for his son.

After another witness's evidence had been taken, the case for the prosecution closed, and defendants were asked if they wished to make statements. They did.

The first defendant said she told the first witness that she had no rice to eat, and had no work. He asked her to follow him, telling her that he had no wife and would feed her and give her clothing. He told her he would take her to the country, but she refused to go. The reason he wished to take her to the country was because he was afraid her husband would discover her. He told her that if her husband discovered her she was not to go back to him, but to ignore him and claim the witness as her husband. Defendant said that could not be done because there was a child born. Defendant told her that she need have no fear of ignoring her husband in Hongkong. Because she refused to agree to his terms the witness suggested that she should go to the Registrar-General. He also taught her to say that he was her husband; that they were married in the country, and he brought her down to see the procession. She refused to do this, and the witness told the Registrar-General she was flying the white pigeon. He also told her that he would bear false witness against her.

The second defendant told the Court she had been buying eggs from the complainant for seventeen years, during which time she had never been dishonest, and had never cheated him. One day she met the "old man" in the shop, and told him the first defendant wanted someone to support her. The old man had asked her to find a concubine for his son. She did not see any money pass hands, and did not know how much had been paid. She also sold eggs for the shop, and returned the proceeds to the old man, who said she was honest. He told her to say she knew the first defendant, and if there was any trouble she would not be implicated. She had done nothing wrong and had been straightforward all her life.

His Worship (to first defendant)—Your story is that the complainants knew all the while you had a husband living?—Yes.

Do you mean to say that the first witness would take you to his family house, and have a go-between when you had a husband living?—I was taken by the old man's son.

His Worship (to second defendant)—You were told that the son wanted a concubine, and take a married woman to the house. What have you got to say to that?—I told the old man I did not know the first defendant.

His Worship stated that by her own admission the first defendant was proved to have a husband. He did not in the least believe her story, because if she had told the father her husband was living he would never have allowed her in the family house. There was a doubt about the second defendant, and as she was entitled to the benefit of it he would discharge her, but warned her not to appear before him again. The first defendant would be imprisoned for four months.

MR. JAMES DALZIEL'S YARNS.

NEW BOOK OF LOCAL INTEREST.

Any book written by a local man who has been well known and popular for sixteen years would interest Hongkong readers; but in the case of *In the First Watch, and other engine-room stories* (London: T. Fisher Upwin) Mr. James Dalziel offers a book of high intrinsic interest anywhere. It has peculiar interest for Far Eastern readers; professional interest for seafaring men wherever they may be; but beyond that, and speaking quite impartially, these fourteen stories have distinctly remarkable literary merit.

The book is not a mere collection of short stories with no more connection than the material in which they are bound. There is a something—a *je ne sais quoi*—of continuity about them that may have been fortuitous, but in all probability was intended by the author. Certainly they combine to prove one thesis of his, that the romance of the sea is not dead.

"Our best authors have said it [that it is]—all but one, and he is a voice crying in the wilderness, and must needs label his splendid fancies 'matter of fact'. Romance afloat, we learn, depends on the presence of so many yards of canvas, so many coils of Manila rope, so many feet of timber standing on end. Romance fled before that villain Steam; before Steam and her servitors, marine engineers—a sad race, a race of Gradgrinds, a race bred and fed on facts, facts of iron and steel: men wanting imagination, scoffers at tradition, undistinguished in dress with an unseamanlike regard for their stomachs, and a fatal fondness for dying in beds of senile decay. Romance!—why, they tell you that to-day the sea herself is but a great, grey plain out by steamer routes as is the land by railways. They will not have it even that there are sea-scapes now. The sun that sets in Indian glory over the polished rail of the racing P. and O. is pale and poor beside the orb that flamed beyond John Company's lumbering stern. Tropic nights of magic are of the past. They are burned with Marryat and Michael Scott—and fog, eye. There are no more great gales, no more direful doldrums. There are no more wrecks, foundering, strandings, derelicts, barratries, piracies, smugglings; no more treasure islands, phantom ships, desperadoes, deep-sea mysteries—no more: no, nor can be again, say those that ought to know."

That passage, from the final yarn, is very effective irony, but the reader is really persuaded

long before he gets so far. The stories themselves prove the cant saying wrong.

The first story, lending title to the lot, grips and holds sympathy, and he must be very unimpressible who avoids feeling a thrill of satisfaction when the worm turns, and the bad skipper gets his awful deserts. The second, which has been published in *London Opinion*, makes the reader think how unnecessary the Kiplings really would be, if the men who really understand things could express them as Mr. Dalziel can. Fortunately for the scribblers, the men who know cannot always tell what they know, and men with the gift of expression get their chance as literary vicars of the others. The third yarn is racy, and holds the mirror up to a character many local readers must have met. The fourth "The Flaw in the Crank-Shaft," is a wonderful bit of work, of psychological interest, and not many writers could have made a story out of such material, yet we have a story of sustained interest, that timid passengers will not easily forget, whenever they see an engineer on deck looking less amiable than a "deck ornament." The fifth is another view of the trade that we would not willingly have missed, but perhaps only engineers will see the humour of it. The sixth opens discouragingly, with technical details that seem pointless, until suddenly the purpose of the author dawns on us, and we see, as through the vapour of the engine room, the pathetic human interest that as mere passengers we are blind to. The seventh tells of an anxious run to Hongkong. The eighth is a sensational story of a coolie ship, that beats Captain Kettle hollow at his own game. The ninth, telling of a Chinese coal-trimmer, is perhaps flimsy; it does not strike us as equal to the rest; and the tenth, while distinctly in the author's own vein, has a motif less original than he usually treats us to. Immediately following comes a masterpiece "The Tale of a Tail-shaft," which may be specially recommended to all employers. The twelfth is a capital yarn of a run through the Port Arthur blockade, and the thirteenth a purely humorous report of a modern Munchausen. Closing the list is a morbid study of the obsession of a man who had gone through a ghastly experience at the back of Stonecutters in a typhoon, to the detriment of his mental balance. It reminds us of Joseph Conrad's method. There is nothing amateurish about any of the tales, and we have confidence in recommending this book to the notice of readers who enjoy a good story artistically constructed and dramatically told.

H. G. BROWN AND COMPANY, LIMITED, IN LIQUIDATION.

The report of the liquidator for presentation at a general meeting of shareholders, to be held on 4th January, reads:

The Liquidator now begs to present to Shareholders the Final Statement of the Company's accounts made up to September 30th, 1907.

The amount at debit of Profit and Loss Account at the time the Company went into liquidation was ... \$122,940.52
To this had to be added the amount that appeared in the Company's books as value of Goodwill... 41,400.00

The losses on winding up amount to ... 164,340.52
101,864.9
\$266,204.91

Brig "Enrique."—Although the Spanish Authorities gave the Company's representative in Manila a written guarantee to indemnify the Company if this vessel was lost or damaged while in their hands, I have found it impossible to collect the Company's claim against the Spanish Government for the loss of this vessel. The vessel was taken by the Spanish admiral, filled with stones and sunk at the mouth of Subig Bay, to prevent the entrance of the American fleet.

Sundry Debtors consist entirely of advances to labourers and when the Company ceased

operations, the men were thrown out of employment and were quite unable to repay the advances made to them by the Company.

The sum available for distribution is ... \$3,795.39
And this I propose to deal with as follows:—
To distribute \$1.60 per share on 6,000 shares ... 3,600.00

Leaving a balance of... \$ 195.39

to meet incidental expenses, which I hope will meet with your approval

J. WHEBLEY,
Liquidator.

Hongkong, November 26th, 1907.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO THE 30th SEPTEMBER, 1907.

Dr.	LIABILITIES.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Capital:—			
6,000 shares each \$50.00 paid up		300,000.00	
Less amount of 1st distribution of assets	30,000.00		
		270,000.00	
Less amount of final distribution of assets	3,600.00		
		266,400.00	
Sundry creditors	11,044.27		
Less amount of claims liquidated	11,044.27		
		\$266,400.00	
Cr.	ASSETS.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cash with		4,005.39	
Less amount of 1st distribution uncollected	210.00		
		\$3,795.39	
Less provision for final distribution of assets	3,600.00		
		195.39	
Balance of profit and loss account		266,204.61	
		\$266,400.00	

LIQUIDATION ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$ c.
To brig "Enrique," book value	12,150.00
To sundry debtors	8,889.99
To Banahian cutting, book value, balance of	7,500.00
To claims liquidation, balance of	1,769.70
To liquidation expenses in the Philippine Islands and Hongkong	8,889.69
	\$38,648.38
Cr.	
By amount of purchase money collected	7,500.00
By interest	940.25
By balance carried to profit and loss account	30,208.13
	\$38,648.38

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$ c.
To balance as per last account	247,040.75
To balance of liquidation A/c. brought down	30,208.13
	\$277,248.88
Cr.	
By amount of claims liquidated	11,044.27
By balance	266,204.61
	\$277,248.88

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

December 15.

DEATH OF MR. LAU CAU.

Mr. Lau Cau, who holds the principal Government monopolies, died suddenly at his residence this morning.

ANOTHER DEATH.

The last mail from Portugal brought news of the death of our former harbour-master. Rear-Admiral Albano Alves Branco. He died at Lisbon on the 9th ult. It was only at the beginning of the year he left Macao where he had a wide circle of friends.

A CORRECTION.

I find I was wrong in stating that the Government had forfeited \$4,500 belonging to the holder of the latest monopoly. What happened was that this sum was required to be deposited by the Government as guarantee.

NAVAL.

The French gunboat *Vigilante* is in the harbour.

EVOLUTION OF HONGKONG.

[Written for the *Hongkong Daily Press*.]

(Continued from last week.)

XII.

As the East India Company for long continued to feel a sore over their loss of the profits of the trade, they not unnaturally looked for something to replace it. It was noticed that the tea-plant actually grew wild in the Assam territory, and this led to steps being taken to introduce the manufacture. With this object in view Robert Fortune, a trained botanist was sent to China shortly after the conclusion of the treaty of Nanking, with orders to procure all the information he could about the manipulation of the product and the cultivation of the plant. No better choice could have been made. Fortune made his way into the tea districts at a time when travellers in the interior could claim no protection, and so ingratiated himself with the people that he became a welcome visitor. He studied on the spot the whole manipulation of the plant, and secured a sufficient number of skilled natives to proceed to India, and there successfully introduce the cultivation. The trial from these small beginnings had enormous results, and led to the headquarters of tea-culture being eventually transported from China to India and Ceylon. Although the British Government lent no aid of any sort to the new enterprise, taxing the Indian product equally with that of China, the Chinese Government by its utter want of any fiscal policy whatever materially contributed to the result, by standing by and permitting every petty official en route to tax the article *ad libitum*.

To Robert Fortune is also to be attributed the introduction of many beautiful and useful plants into England; and his wanderings in China, no doubt in the regions traversed by him, went far to remove the prejudice against foreigners still at the time supreme throughout China. The science of botany owes to him, in connection with Sir Joseph Hooker in Assam, its first knowledge of the plants of a vast region extending from the Himalayas to the sea coast of China.

Owing partly to the obstructions placed in the way by the native authorities at Foochow, but mainly to the Chinese disinclination to change their methods, it was not till well on in the fifties that the Port of Foochow became of any importance, but about the year 1853 mainly through the exertions of some of the American merchants, the first teas commenced to come to Foochow for shipment; it was not, however, till after the treaty of Tientsin that Foochow rose into first class importance as a tea-shipping port.

From the opening of Shanghai, owing to its proximity to the largest silk producing country in the world, silk had taken its place as one of the staple exports: the most active nation in the market being Italy, itself the largest European producer. The Chinese from the earliest ages of which we have knowledge had encouraged the production, and the rearing of the worm was not thought beneath the dignity of an empress. The worm certainly was indigenous in northern China, and seems in the earliest ages to have lived on the native oak and other trees which were native to these countries. When the less robust *bombyx mori*, and mulberry cultivation came into use in central China is not recorded, but the earliest silk known in Europe, as far as we can form an opinion from the well known verse of Vergil:—*Valleraque ut foliis depectant tenuia Seres?* would indicate the northern variety.

The trade would probably without external influence have continued to increase, especially as Shanghai, in contrast with the other ports had it been favoured from the first under consuls who to a pleasant presence superadded a quiet intention to see the stipulations of the Treaty observed, and who thus gained the confidence of both sides; but the great development of the trade was due to natural causes. Towards the close of the fifties a strange disease broke out amongst the silk worms of Europe, which rapidly became epidemic, and at one period threatened to destroy the whole of the production, and the silkworms of Europe must have

remained idle had it not been that China came to the rescue. The export of silk at once assumed enormous importance, and it was characteristic of the great production of China in ordinary circumstances that the demand was at once met with very slight disturbance of the market. Not only was the demand for silk enormously increased, but an entirely new trade, that in silk-worm, adds to supply the ravages of the diseases sprung up and for many years assumed considerable importance. In the year 1856, Michie estimated that the value of silk thus exported amounted in value to no less than ten millions sterling. This enormous export lasted with few intermissions till the close of the seventies, when owing to increased exports from Japan, and the discovery by Pasteur of an effectual remedy for the disease, the trade for a period slackened. The spur given to the trade was, however, permanent, and we find at the present the value of silk commodities exported annually not far short of twelve millions sterling.

The consequences of this demand for Chinese silk were not confined to China but were world-wide in a degree and manner never foreseen by the actors who took part in it; it, in fact, completely revolutionised the currency of the world. There had been a general tendency, headed by England, to simplify the monetary currency of the world, and there had in consequence a disposition to reduce all to the one standard of gold. When Napoleon III became Emperor of the French the currency of France, nominally bimetallic, was really based on the silver five franc piece, enormous quantities of which were in circulation or locked up in the treasury. Napoleon introduced the gold coin bearing his name of the value at the time of four of these silver five franc pieces, which from their good coinage and their handiness became popular; this occurring contemporaneously with the demand for China silk, enormous quantities of these coins were melted up and sent to China, where silver demanded a fancy price, rising to a premium of as much as thirty per cent. With the recovery from disease of the European silkworm, the French five franc silver piece had practically departed from its leading place in the European currency, which became formally established on the gold basis. After the Franco-German war the indemnity was paid in gold; and Germany took the opportunity to change her standard likewise to gold; and this let loose an enormous amount of silver on an already fully stocked market, with the result of a continuous drop in price, which by 1903 had fallen to considerably less than half its supposed standard value. This complete revolution in the currencies of the world where China remains now as the only silver-using country of importance in mercantile affairs, has had profound effects on the course of trade, especially in the East.

Another circumstance, also to a large extent accidental, which occurred about this period had a most important effect in altering the course of trade; this was the establishment of the Foreign Maritime Customs. While as a nation no people on the face of the earth are more capable accountants than the Chinese in their individual character as merchants or bankers, the very opposite rule is found to prevail when we consider the nation in its character as a government. At no period of its history has there been any system of accountancy between the Central Government and its subordinates. The several posts have their well understood assessed value, and the appointee before proceeding to his post has to pay up this assessment in full, together with other undefined, but invariably demanded dues. On the other hand when he yields up his office, he is not called on to render any account of his receipts, but is expected to have not only cleared himself, but to have amassed a sufficiency to meet future promotions, in default of which his official career is considered closed.

There was thus in no part of China, before the Treaty of Nanking anything corresponding with a "Tariff," that is to say, there was no regular and invariable levy: the general ideas were defined more or less definitely, but details were left to the discretion of the collector. This was necessary, as like his superior officer, he himself had paid beforehand for his office and was expected to get as much as he could,

without raising trouble, always a *sine qua non*, out of it. As the collector was generally too wise to risk killing his goose the duty payable became in most cases a matter of private bargaining with the larger merchants, who frequently had the opportunity of selecting routes, and chose the one where facilities were greatest, and least exacting. Such was the ante-treaty system under which the Company had worked: and naturally under the operation of the treaty, to prevent its recurrence became one of the chief duties of the consuls appointed to the various ports.

(To be continued.)

JAPAN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Tokyo, December 3rd.

SETTLEMENT OF THE CANADIAN QUESTION.

On Monday the first conference took place between Mr. Rodolphe Lemieux, K.C., Postmaster-General and Minister of Labour for the Dominion of Canada, and Count Hayashi, Japanese Foreign Minister. The conference, which lasted several hours, took place in the Foreign Office, there being also present besides the above-mentioned statesmen, Sir Claude MacDonald, British Ambassador, and Baron Chiada, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Lemieux has been several weeks in Tokyo and last night was the guest of honour at a banquet given by prominent Tokyo citizens. Although the first official conference has been long in taking place, it is probable that, unofficially, everything of importance has already been practically decided upon and that some new form of supplementary agreement will be concluded to suit the present condition of the immigration question in Canada. Although the Tokyo press has dwelt at length upon the fact that Canada cannot back out of its agreement with Japan, it should be borne in mind that during the past year or so certain developments have taken place in America which make it necessary for the statesmen of both Japan and America to consider their relations anew. And we may rest assured that Count Hayashi will not fail to recognise the new difficulties that have arisen in Canada and that both he and Mr. Lemieux will come to some satisfactory arrangement.

VISCOUNT AOKI'S RECALL.

Some surprise is now being experienced at the recall of the Japanese Ambassador at Washington, and Ruter's special reports from Washington show how the American public is inclined to regard the event. The Viscount himself anticipates public opinion by the statement that he is returning to Tokyo to confer on the immigration question and that it does not follow that he will not return to Washington. One Japanese correspondent states that the Ambassador is recalled in consequence of Count Hayashi's determination to pursue a more vigorous policy with regard to the immigrant question, while Count Hayashi in an interview with a correspondent here says Viscount Aoki's presence in Tokyo will do much to hasten the settlement of the matter. Whether the Ambassador will return to America, however, is an open question, his conduct of recent negotiations not having given entire satisfaction, although it is well known he is disposed to a peaceful settlement. Viscount Aoki was formerly at Berlin, and as that embassy is at present in charge of the first secretary—Ambassador Iwano being on his way home—the probability of Viscount Aoki being removed thither is freely spoken of.

AN IMPERIAL CHINESE VISITOR.

What with the troublesome "Kanto" or Chientao dispute, Manchurian questions and other differences between Japan and China, it is perhaps too much to expect harmonious diplomatic relations between these two peoples for some years to come, but the visit of Prince Pu Lim is thoroughly welcomed by the Tokyo press, although his Highness merely comes to return the visit to the Peking Court of Prince Hiroyasu of Fushimi. Yet great results can with reason be expected. Prince Pu Lim may occupy the throne of China before many years are past, and the impressions and convictions of so exalted a Chinese, gained

during a sojourn in Japan, may be of immense future benefit in the relations of the two countries. Hence from the proper point of view this is more than a visit of courtesy.

A GREAT ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENT.

What is known as the Imperial Chrysanthemum Garden Party took place a few days ago, the rendez-vous being the beautiful grounds of the Akasaka Palace. The adjective "beautiful" applied to these gardens is certainly the fittest, for the grounds of the palace are not only great in extent but beautiful to the eye, where magnificent old trees, covering hill and dale, shrubbery, well-kept lawns, lakes, rivulets, and rustic bridges are arranged by the hand of man for the improvement of nature. Here, every year, members of the Imperial Family, officials of the Government, the Diplomatic Corps, and prominent Japanese and foreign residents and their ladies are invited to view the chrysanthemum, cultivated in all its glory. Said to say, there are not so many Japanese ladies present at this particular function as could be wished, the explanation being that as they are compelled by etiquette to wear foreign clothes they stay away in preference to having expensive gowns made which would probably only be worn on this particular occasion. But who can imagine a Japanese woman delightful in any other dress but her own?

EASTERN SHIPPING COMPETITION.

The Japanese Ambassador at Rome reports that the Italian Minister of Communications will introduce a Bill for the establishment of a line of steamer plying between Venice and Japan and presumably calling at way ports. More competition for the unfortunate shipping companies! The N. Y. K. has felt the effect of its fight with the N. D. L. between Hongkong and Bangkok, and nothing but a heavily subsidised line will pay in the near future. Traffic seems to be outgrowing trade, but doubtless bottom will be reached before long.

THE RACING MANIA.

Among the most recent developments in Japanese enterprise is the sudden and growing popularity of race meetings, half a dozen of which in different parts of the country have sprung up within the last twelve months. Prior to this the only interest, taken in horses as racers in all Japan was shown at the spring and autumn meetings of the Nippon Race Club of Yokohama, a foreign institution which has held meetings regularly for many years past. But recently there have been formed duly registered joint-stock companies which hold meetings in the neighbourhood of Tokyo, Kobe and Osaka and at present enjoy the greatest success. No less than four of these companies have their race-courses—in every case well appointed for the accommodation of visitors—in the neighbourhood of Tokyo, and their meetings are crowded with enthusiastic "sportsmen" and women, who perhaps would not take such keen interest in the proceedings but for the betting which is a new attraction to the gambling instinct. Ostensibly these new business concerns are formed to encourage the improvement of the horse, and the Government horse administration bureau supervises the companies to some extent.

THE TAIKOO VOLUNTEER RANGE.

The Taikoo Detachment of the H.K.V.C., now enjoys an extension to its Miniature Rifle Range. This beautiful little Range was opened in 1906 (87 yards) and has now been extended to 100 yards with arrangements to work six targets alongside the Recreation Ground.

The thanks of the Detachment are due to Lieut. W. Murray Scott, C.O., for this new extension which was opened on Saturday afternoon by Mrs. D. Templeton in beautiful weather. A large and interesting programme (arranged by the energetic Secretary of the Shooting Committee, Corpl. Crosbie) was gone through.

Sergts. Lochead and McKirdy were at home to all members of the Detachment, their wives and friends. All events were well contested and good shooting the result.

1ST EVENT. LADIES SHOOT.

25 yards, Morris tube, kneeling, 12 entries.
1st, Miss Hoskins, 22 out of a possible 24.
2nd, Miss McNeill, 21.

2ND EVENT. LOCAL VISITORS.

100 yards, 303 ammunitions.
Target 24 inch; Bull's eye 2½ inch.
1st, W. Hill, 20 out of a possible 24.

3RD EVENT. MEMBERS OF THE DETACHMENTS.

50 yards, 303 ammunitions.
Target 12 inch; Bull's eye 1½ inch.
1st, Sergt. McKirdy, 15 out of a possible 20,
2nd, Capt. Crosbie, 14.

4TH EVENT. LADIES.

Revolver Morris tube.
15 yards, Target 24 inch, Bulls' eye 6 inch.
1st, Miss Hoskins, 18 out of a possible 20
2nd, Mrs. Mitchell, 16.

5TH EVENT. HONGKONG VISITORS.

50 yards, 303 ammunitions.
Target 12 inch, Bull's eye 1½ inch.
1st, S. M. Higby, 18 out of a possible 20.
2nd, S. M. Spenser, 18.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

Sergt. Lochead, on behalf of Sergt. McKirdy and for himself, expressed regret at the absence of C.O. Lieut. W. Murray Scott through indisposition, and at the same time had much pleasure in asking Mrs. Grimshaw to distribute the prizes. Hearty votes of thanks were recorded to Mrs. Templeton, Mrs. Grimshaw and Muir, Lieut. W. Murray Scott, Sergts. Lochead and McKirdy, and the Hon. Secretary.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

December 16th.

Contrary to expectations of the general public, H. E. Chang Yan-Tsun has turned out to be the weakest Viceroy the Throne has appointed to the two Kwang Provinces of recent years. He was Governor of Kwangtung during Viceroy Shum's régime until that position was abolished. Chang was only a figure head during his tenure of office as Governor on account of his disagreement with Shum in matters connected with Provincial affairs. The public thought a great deal of him and looked upon him as an able official and only believed that he had no opportunity to display his ability because Shum seldom consulted him on provincial matters. Since he took over the Viceregal functions here the local gentry discovered his weakness and incapacity and took advantage of it to play havoc with all provincial affairs. It is publicly known that the gentry have defied a cabled Decree from the Central Government out the West River Patrol question. Shortly after the public agitation took place Admiral Moore and H. B. M. Consul-General called on the Viceroy and had a long conference in which everything was supposed to have been amicably arranged. In the meantime the Self-Government Association and the Protection of Chinese Rights Association, both of which have sprung up quite recently, were permitted to hold public meetings opposing the Decree from Peking and they sent many telegrams to the Central Government above the Viceroy's head. If Wong and Kong, the principal agitators, are permitted to continue to convene these meetings where so many anti-foreign speeches have been delivered, it may eventually cause a serious anti-foreign riot. In consequence of the meetings the majority of the local press has lately taken up a hostile attitude towards foreigners. Several of the leading papers suppress all news on international matters that shows the foreigners to be in the right as for instance the recent Ho Nam shooting affray in which case it was proved beyond doubt at the trial that the police were entirely in the wrong and were punished. Not a single paper has published the sentence of the Court. The Chinese have repeatedly complained of the uselessness of the police getting no protection from them. Recently some Chinese deliberately defied the police authorities and the Chinese officials by engaging over twenty men and women, went to a foreign house in Sha Kee Tai Kai, drove the foreigners out and took forcible possession of it with all the furniture worth over \$1000, right under the nose of the police who refused to help the foreigners to eject the intruders. The matter was immediately reported to the officer in charge of the nearest police station where the foreigners were again refused assistance. Such an outrage has not been heard of for a

long time. The foreign Consul concerned has communicated the matter to the Viceroy but so far no steps have been taken by the Chinese Authorities to eject the intruders. His Excellency Chang invariably leaves all important international affairs in the hands of his subordinate officials to settle, which is a trick on his part to evade responsibility. Owing to the recent rebellion in Kwangsi, and the West River patrol affair, in which the latter has caused a great deal of agitation in the two Provinces, Viceroy Chang has declared his inability by telegraphing to one of his colleagues in Peking to memorialize the Throne on his behalf to permit him to resign his position on the ground that there are too many international matters and difficult problems in the two Kwang provinces for him to solve and that a more competent official be appointed to take over the position. An Imperial Edict was issued a few days ago ordering Viceroy Chang to remain where he is.

WATER RETURN.

Level and storage of water in reservoirs on the 1st December:—

	LEVEL.	
	1906.	1907.
	Below overflow. Below overflow.	
Tytam	1 ft. 5½ in.	0 ft. 6½ in.
Tytam Byewash, 28 ft. 1½ in.	28 ft. 2 in.	
	Above overflow.	
Tytam Intermediate		2 ft. 4 in.
		Below overflow.
Pokfulam	6 ft. 7½ in.	2 ft. 8 in.
Wongnaicheong	6 ft. 6 in.	2 ft. 6 in.
	STORAGE GALLONS.	
	1906.	1907.
Tytam	372,550,000	330,250,000
Tytam Byewash	nil.	nil.
Tytam Intermediate		209,355,000
Pokfulam	50,550,000	60,520,000
Wongnaicheong	22,173,000	27,185,000
Total	415,273,000	677,343,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

	1906.	1907.
Consumption	100,961,000	132,081,000 gallons
Estimated population	235,700	205,860
Consumption per head per day	14.0	21.3 gallons

Rider mains in operation during the whole of November 1906. Constant supply in all districts during the whole of November 1907. The return of Consumption is subject to error owing to the difficulty of accurate measurement whilst the extension works at Albany Filter Beds are in progress.

KOWLOON WATER WORKS.

	LEVEL.	
	1906.	1907.
Kowloon gravitation Reservoir		Below overflow 29 ft. 5 in.
	STORAGE GALLONS.	
	1906.	1907.
Kowloon gravitation Reservoir		127,817,000

Note. The supply from the original intakes works was discontinued at the end of 1906, but the gravitation works have not been sufficiently advanced to justify publishing returns of the storage.

CONSUMPTION IN KOWLOON DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

	1906.	1907.
Consumption	14,093,000	20,681,000 gallons
Estimated population	82,000	80,500
Consumption per head per day	5.7	8.5 gallons

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.
Public Works Department.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

The Registrar of Companies gives notice that at the expiration of three months the Star Fire Insurance Co. Ltd., will, unless cause is shown to the contrary, be struck off the register and the company will be dissolved.

COMMERCIAL.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, December 20th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$870	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$900	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$930	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$970	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$750	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$800	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$917½	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	\$917½	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$890	to	—	do.
Benares Old	\$—	to	—	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 12th December, 1907, states:—It is possible to confirm the impression we endeavoured to impart in our last that in staple makes there was a turn for the better. Where holders have shown willingness to accept prices for goods that were ruling when a much more favourable exchange was obtainable business has been possible, though showing a loss of fully 15 per cent. at to-day's rate. It must naturally be supposed that sellers had cover in hand at a higher exchange, and in this way some of the second-hand holders have also been able to re-sell. This of course puts those who are not covered entirely out of it, and they must wait until this cheaper cargo is exhausted and the market has a chance of rising. There is no doubt about it the drop in exchange is at last showing some effect on prices, and although no adequate advance has taken place so far the possibilities are more apparent. The chief demand for goods comes from Szechuen and the River ports, as far as Manchester makes are concerned, as well as some of the lighter American goods, but Tientsin is also in the market for heavier makes. It is said a large number of prominent buyers have arrived here from that Port recently and are anxious to buy, but holders here are ready for them, and higher prices will have to be paid before much business will be done. The situation up there is in a mixed state, to say the least of it, and the system of doing business on credit, so long in vogue there, has, we understand, quite earned the strictures we have put upon it occasionally. The last direct steamers have left during the interval, but the Chinwantao route will be available as usual. Manchester remains in the same comparatively strong position, nor has the course of the Cotton market in Liverpool helped in any way to lower the ideas of Manufacturers. After advancing to 6.42d. Mid-American declined yesterday to 6.34d. for spot and 5.93d. 'future.' To-day the spot price comes 6.20d., but at the same time the New York price is quoted 10.92 cents, a recovery of 13 points since yesterday, so the next Liverpool price will probably be higher again. The quotation for Egyptian Cotton remains steady at 10½d. Clearances have shown some improvement, possibly on account of the prospective closing of the Peiho. There are signs that the weather will be exceptionally cold up north this winter. There is nothing new of any importance regarding Newchwang and Manchuria. Tientsin and Chefoo have taken some American goods from second hand. It is said, the former is offering sundry lines of goods for sale on this market, some transactions being reported to have actually taken place at extremely low prices. The water is falling satisfactorily in the Yangtze, but trade conditions have not returned to normal as yet. The Country seems to be quieter. The Yarn market has continued strong, especially for Indian Spinnings, and with the greatly reduced stock and shorter prospective supplies the position is better than it has been for a long time back. The local industry should improve with the lower exchange, and already we hear the ball has been set rolling by the sale of 1,500 bales by one of the Mills and 500 by another at slightly better prices, the transaction being rendered fairly satisfactory by the low price at which the raw Cotton had been bought. The lower exchange at the same time produces a strong demand for export, though of course the increased competition puts up the price on the local user. What shows the stronger position of the market more than anything is the way prices are being maintained at Auction in spite of the steadily increasing quantities that are being offered. The Turkey Red war is well on

now, the weekly offerings at Auction without reserve having doubled since the beginning of September. The question is will the lower prices increase the consumption? It is noticeable too, that the public sale list of Fast Black Cotton Italians is now commencing to increase. The question of exchange is as intricate as ever. It has certainly been a huge medium for gambling during the last three months, and while some have scored heavily others must have lost. It is a most disconcerting factor to have in the trade, as through the speculative advantages it may give to one the reverse is the fate of another, thus always keeping the trade on an inequitable basis, the goods in the hands of one man varying greatly with the cost of similar goods in the hands of another. It is not the first time this market has had to face these violent fluctuations, but 16½ per cent. in three months is a bit serious and should help towards a currency reform in this country. Cotton Yarn.—Indian.—Although the quantity sold during the interval that has come to our knowledge is not large we understand a good demand on the lines mentioned in our last still continues. The buyers for Szechuen are noticeably inclined to take the better class of No. 10s, now that were usually looked for Tientsin. Prices might be called strong, especially for No. 20s, which are up a tad and a half. The total business reported amounts to 2,125 bales only which is probably somewhat below the real figure.

From Messrs. Herbert A. Co.'s Weekly Market Report, dated Shanghai, December 12th, 1907:—The continued decline in exchange from 3½ at the beginning of October to 2½ to-day is quite sufficient of itself to upset all ordinary calculations, and to make it impossible for any one interested in foreign trade to feel confidence in the future. The disadvantages of having to carry on large transactions in a currency which has so often proved to be thoroughly unstable may perhaps some day be brought home to the authorities in China. Throughout a long period when silver was steady and when some action towards regulating the currency might have been more easily taken than can be done when rates are fluctuating violently from week to week, nothing was done, and apparently the country will now have to go through another long period of instability. When to this drawback is added shortsighted objections to the introduction of foreign capital, opposition to improved means of internal communication, obstruction of industrial expansion, taxation of raw materials used in manufactures, and slow development of mineral resources, it is not surprising that there should be discontent amongst a rapidly increasing population whose resources and expansion are crippled in so many directions. There is a slight upward movement in current rates for certain qualities of American goods, but the advance is not material; in English plain staples the market is stronger than it has been for many months, but prices offered are not sufficiently tempting to induce importers to sell goods which cannot be replaced within four to five mace of the prices obtainable here at present. Some holders of fancy goods are disposing of them at prices which are almost a sacrifice, apparently regarding an advance as hopeless in view of the heavy stocks which have accumulated. On the other hand supplies coming forward from every quarter are very light. The latest U. S. Government Bureau estimate of the cotton crop is reduced to 11,700,000 bales, which probably will prevent any material decline in cotton for some time to come. Experience has shown that when actual scarcity becomes imminent Chinese can pay up for goods, so if stocks run down to a low level in the spring, the reaction which has been expected for a long time may come about.

SILK.

From Mr F. C. Heffer's report, dated Shanghai, December 11th, 1907:—Telegrams report quiet Markets at Home and quote Gold Killing in London at 12½. Raw Silk.—There has been no business done in White Silks during the past fortnight. Yellow Silks.—About 250 bales have been settled at undermentioned rates.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Polynesian*, sailed on 10th December, 1907.—For Marseilles:—175 bales raw silk, 150 bales waste silk, 53 packages tea, 9 bales human hair, 14 cases paper, 9 cases feathers, 4 cases human hair, 7 cases ilang ilang, 12 cases hats. For Milan:—5 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—6 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—118 bales raw silk. For London:—50 bales waste silk.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 13th December, 1907, has the following:—Gallnuts.—Prices somewhat easier. A limited business has been done. Cowhides.—Very little demand from Europe. Prices are in consequence declining. Tobacco.—A fair business has been done. Feathers.—Supplies smaller than usual and it is feared that deliveries will be belated. Cotton.—The market keeps very firm in consequence of a steady enquiry from Japan. Tendency towards higher prices. Tallow.—Prices firm. Only little business doing. Wood Oil.—Market unchanged. Prices easier for distant shipment. Sesamum Seed.—Prices are a trifle firmer. A fairly satisfactory business has been done. Strawbraid.—A slight demand from Europe for Fine Loyeh White and Matau Tuscan. Otherwise nothing doing. Goatskin Rugs.—A good business has been done in Newchwang rugs. Wool.—Sheep's.—Business is much hampered by poor transport facilities from Chungking. Prices remain steady. The demand is improving. Antimony.—There is very little demand from home

Per P. & O. s.s. *Malta*, sailed on 14th December 1907. For Aberdeen:—1 case cigars. For Liver pool:—1 case cigarettes. For Manchester:—425 bales waste silk. For London:—3 cases China ink, 6 cases hats, 482 packages tea, 3 cases silk, 50 bales raw silk, 35 cases cigars and tobacco, 17 cases sundries, 53 bales pierced cocoons, 1 case silverware. Milan:—50 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—99 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—15 bales raw silk. Gibraltar:—3 cases silk goods, 3 cases cigars, 1 case curios. For Marseilles:—10 cases cut tobacco, 75 bales waste silk, 120 bales raw silk, 1 case hats.

Per P. & O. steamer *Syria*, sailed on 18th Dec For Antwerp:—250 bales hemp, 44 bales cases. For Manchester:—125 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—4,392 bales hemp. For London:—1,350 bales hemp, 200 rolls mats, 1,541 boxes tea, 49 cases effects, 3 cases silk, 1 case books, 11 cases chinaware, 1 case machinery, 1 case blackwood-ware. For Glasgow:—6 bales straw cuffs. For Rotterdam:—24 cases chinaware. For Marseilles:—5 cases human hair. For London opt. Cont:—325 cases preserves, 250 packages merchandise, 5 cases human hair, 50 cases staranised, 5 cases bristles, 317 packages merchandise.

HANKOW, 11th Dec., 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected.....	Tls. 26.50
Do. Seconds	" 22.50
Buffalo hides, Best selected	" 22.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour.....	" 43.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" 6.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi.....	" —
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" —
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" —
Jute	" 3.80
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Machang	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu.....	" —
Animal Tallow	" 14.70
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 17.00
Gallnuts, plum do.	" —
Tobacco, Tingchow	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong	" —
Turneric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 5.80
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	" 8.80
Tea Oil	" —

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 17th December, 1907.

Apricot	\$16½	to	—
Borax	\$15	"	16
Cassia	\$19½	"	—
Cloves	\$20	"	33
Camphor	\$100	"	106
Cow Bezoar	\$125	"	140
Fennel Seed	\$9½	"	—
Galangal	\$2	"	4
Grapes	\$14	"	—
Kismis	\$16	"	—
Glue	\$27	"	—
Olibanum	\$2	"	18
Oil Sandalwood	\$295	"	360
.. Rosa	\$50	"	160
.. Cassia	\$260	"	—
Raisins	\$9	"	—
Senna Leaves	\$6	"	9
Sandalwood	\$29	"	—
Saltpetre	\$11	"	—

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 20th December, 1907.—A fair business has been transacted during the week, but it has been confined to few stocks. Rates generally speaking have inclined to weakness, and with a few exceptions close at that. The rapid fall in sterling exchange and the scarcity of money among operators and investors have contributed to an erratic state of the market; these causes added to money required for new issues and the settlement of accounts for the end of the year, make most closing rates weak, and a temporary restriction of business may be looked for. Exchange on London, T. T., 1/9½ Shanghai 74½.

BANKS.—With a decline on the London market to £80 Hongkong & Shanghai have ruled easier, and sales have been made at \$720 and \$715 for old, and at \$710 and 705 for new shares. At time of closing, however, buyers of old at \$715 and of new at 705 meet with no response, and it is probable that slightly higher rates would be paid for small lots. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—With persistent buyers and no sellers Unions have improved to \$805 with buyers, and even at this enhanced rate no shares appear to be available. Canons have been placed further at \$242½. North Chinas are quoted in the North at Tls. 87, but we have no local sales to report or quotations to give. Yangtszes are quoted in Shanghai at 145 and 130 for old and new respectively.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have changed hands at the improved rate of 33½, but at time of closing a few shares are obtainable at that rate, while buyers at 32½ fail to be satisfied. Chinas have further improved to 94 closing firm at that rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled weak, owing chiefly to some shares on the market for the approaching settlement, and after sales at 29½, close with sellers at 29½. At the same time we learn that the Company is doing a very satisfactory business, and after the settlement an improvement may fairly be looked for. Indo-Chinas, Douglases and China Manilas continue at the same nominal quotations, but no shares appear to be available. Shells have been a dead market and close unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have improved, and sales are reported at 99 and 100 closing with buyers at the higher rate. Luzons remain unchanged.

MINING.—Raubas have ruled weaker and the market closes at 8½ sellers with no business to report. Chinese Engineerings remain firm and even at the advanced rate of 16 and no shares appear to be available; we have heard of no local sale during the week. Langkats have improved in the North to 36½ ex the dividend of Tls. 7½ paid on 16th inst.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled weak, and after sales at 96 close quiet at that rate. Kowloon Wharves, chiefly in consequence of the new issue due on the 31st inst., remain very much out of favour, and with shares forced on the market the rate gradually fell to 60 with sellers, without inducing buyers to come forward, and at time of closing we hear of a sale of the new issue at a lower equivalent rate. Shanghai Docks have ruled steady in the North at 71½, but we have no local business to report. Hongkong Wharves have improved to 207½, and close firm at the rate.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Rates remain unchanged and we have no business to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have improved to 53, and Laou Kung Mows have declined to 65. Further than these we have no changes to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Bells Asbestos have improved to 7 buyers, China Providents to 9½ with sales and buyers, and Green Islands to 11½ with sales at that, after sales at 11 and 11½. Watsons have been placed at the reduced rate of 10, but more shares are wanted at that rate without finding sellers. Union Waters Boats have been done at 10½ and close in demand at that. United Asbestos are enquired for at quotation but none seem to be available. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	{ \$125 }	{ \$715, buyers \$705, buyers Ln. £80 Ln. £78 }
National B. of China	26	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10½, sales
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 }	{ \$6, sellers \$1 }
China Provident	\$10	\$9½, sales & buy.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 53
Hongkong	\$10	\$10, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 50, sales
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 65, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 270
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16.75, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$60, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$96, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$10, sellers
Shanghai Dock and		
Eng. Co. Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 71
Shanghai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 207½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$14
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25, sales
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$242½, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$94, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$300, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 87, sellers
Union	\$100	\$805, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	{ \$145, buyers \$130, buyers }
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$96, sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10½, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 101, sales
West Point Building	\$50	\$48, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$500, buyers
Raubas	18 10	\$8½, sellers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$13
Philippine Co.	\$1	\$2
	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$100, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$29½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	{ \$40 \$23 }
Shell Transport Co.	21	43
Star Ferry	\$10	\$21, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$11½, buyers
South China M. Post	\$25	\$22, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$14, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5
Watkins	\$10	\$2½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10, sales & buy.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10½, sales & buy.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 11th December, 1907, states:—Business has been of a fairly miscellaneous character, but the feature of the week has been a rise in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares, and the marked advance in Maatschappij, etc., in Langkats. The bulk of the business done has been adjustments for December. The T. T. on London to-day is 2/6½. Hongkong and Shanghai Banks.—On the 5th instant, new shares were dealt in at \$66½ exchange 73. Every day since inquiries have been made at gradually improving rates, and at the close we quote \$725 for the old shares and \$720 for the new. Insurance.—Yangtsze Insurance Shares have been dealt in at \$145 for

the old and \$180 for the new. Shanghai.—There is no business reported this week. Docks and Wharves.—Small quantities of December shares have changed hands at Tls. \$71½ and Tls. 71. Business has been done for March at Tls. 73, Tls. 72½ and Tls. 72½. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves. This market has ruled distinctly stronger during the week. Our opening rates were Tls. 198 for cash and Tls. 207 for March. A good demand arose and our cash rate at the close is Tls. 205 with buyers for March at Tls. 210. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Land shares have been placed at Tls. 101. Industrial.—Ewos. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 50, Tls. 50½ and Tls. 51 for December, closing with buyers. There is no other business in Cottons reported. Shanghai Gas Co. There are buyers at Tls. 107. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkats. There has been a considerable business done in this stock at gradually improving rates. The market opened on the basis of Tls. 355 for Dec., and Tls. 365 for March, to be shortly followed with sales at Tls. 360 for December and Tls. 372½ for March. A demand for shares for the Dec. settlement carried the rates to Tls. 365, Tls. 367½ and Tls. 370; for March sales are reported at Tls. 380. Our market closes strong with buyers at these rates. In Shanghai Sumatras sales are reported at Tls. 110 for cash and Dec. Miscellaneous.—Astor House Hotel Shares have sellers at \$20½. Shanghai Mutual Telephone have been placed at Tls. 5½, closing weak. Shanghai Electric and Asbestos have changed hands at \$23 for cash. Loans and Debentures.—There is no business reported.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 13th December.—The volume of business transacted during the period under review is about the same as that of the preceding fortnight. From Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents last and offering; to Philippines, small parcel of 25,000 piculs closed at 20 cents; to North Coast Java, 20 cents last. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, no inquiry; to Japan, 10/6 per ton nominal. From Haiphong to this, several more fixtures on record at 19 cents per bag, but now that the regular lines have agreed to shippers' terms, no more outside tonnage is wanted. Coal rights are weak. From Wakamatsu to Canton, 5 boats closed at \$2.20 per ton; to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton last; to Singapore, \$1.60 per ton; Kueninotzu to Hongkong, \$2.00 per ton last. Time charters. A handy sized Norwegian steamer with Hongkong passenger licence closed for 4 months for Saigon trade, particulars as below. The following are the settlements;—

Pouchatan—British steamer, 1,640 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Fatshing—British steamer, 1,424 tons, Wakamatsu to Canton, \$2.20 per ton.
Clara Jensen—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Wakamatsu to Canton, \$2.20 per ton.
Michael Jensen—German steamer, 951 tons, Wakamatsu to Canton, \$2.20 per ton.
Dagmy—Norwegian steamer, 882 tons, Haiphong to Hongkong (Rice), 19 cents per bag.
Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, Haiphong to Hongkong (Rice), 19 cents per bag.
Pronto—Norwegian steamer, 837 tons, Haiphong to Hongkong (Rice), 19 cents per bag.
Ulv—Norwegian steamer, 884 tons, Haiphong to Hongkong (Rice), 19 cents per bag.
Spir—Norwegian steamer, 870 tons, Saigon to port North Coast Java 23 cents per picul.
Fri—Norwegian steamer, Saigon to Manila (25,000), 20 cents per picul.
Bourbon—French steamer, 907 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.
Nanshan—British steamer, 1,290 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.
Pheumpenh—British steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.
Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, monthly, 4 months, at \$3.750 per month.

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, December 23rd.

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	226 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	23 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	184
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	43 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	45 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	134 1/2
Bank, on demand	135
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	134 1/2
Bank on demand	135
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	74 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	75 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	87 1/2
ON MANILA.—On demand	88 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	28 1/2 p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	184
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	5 1/2 p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	5 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	82
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.00
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$58.00
BAR SILVER, per oz	21 1/2

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$4.86 discount
"	10 " "	5.60 "
Hongkong	20 " "	4.40 "
"	10 " "	5.25 "

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December — ARRIVALS.

12. Fukura Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
13. Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
13. Fansang, British str., from Shanghai.
13. Hailan, French str., from Hoikow.
13. Hellas, German str., from Haiphong.
13. Kowloon, German str., from Moji.
13. Mongolia, Am. str., from San Francisco.
13. Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
13. Schuykill, British str., from Amoy.
13. Tean, British str., from Manila.
13. Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
14. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
14. Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
14. Istok, Austrian str., from Singapore.
14. Lienshing, British str., from Shanghai.
14. Manila, German str., from Sydney.
14. Pronto, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
14. Soshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
15. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
15. Huichow, British str., from Tientsin.
15. Iyo Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
16. Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
16. E. of India, British str., from Vancouver.
16. Gregory Apar, Brit. str., from Nagasaki.
16. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
16. Hus, French str., from K. C. Wan.
16. Laertes, British str., from Amoy.
16. Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
16. Mandasan M, Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.
16. Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
16. Pakhoi, British str., from Tientsin.
16. Rubi, British str., from Manila.
16. Shansi, British str., from Swatow.
16. Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
17. Benlarig, British str., from London.
17. Coquet, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
17. Helene, German str., from Quin Hon.
17. Moyune, British str., from Singapore.
17. P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
17. Sigan, British str., from Haiphong.
17. Syria, British str., from Yokohama.
17. Taishan, British str., from Saigon.
17. Tjiliwong, Dutch str., from Amoy.
17. Ulv, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
17. Yunnan, British str., from Chefoo.
18. Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
18. Hiraft Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
18. Liangchow, British str., from Shanghai.
18. Merapi, Dutch str., from Java.
18. P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Hamburg.

19. Daljin Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
19. Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
19. Ragnar, Norwegian str., from Wakamatsu.
19. Yatshing, British str., from Shimonoseki.

December — DEPARTURES.

12. Titan, British str., for Singapore.
13. Arratoon Apar, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
13. Delhi, British str., for Shanghai.
13. Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
13. Hanyang, British str., for Swatow.
13. Kashing, British str., for Tsingtau.
13. Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
13. Macduff, British str., for Moji.
13. Samsen, German str., for Bangkok.
13. Signal, German str., for Haiphong.
13. Szechuen, British str., for Saigon.
13. Tainan, British str., for Manila.
13. Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
13. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
14. Asia, British str., for San Francisco.
14. Chinkiang, British str., for Amoy.
14. Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
14. Hellas, German str., for Shanghai.
14. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
14. Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
14. Kowloon, German str., for Haiphong.
14. Malta, British str., for Europe, &c.
14. Onsang, British str., for Singapore.
14. Sado Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
14. Zafre, British str., for Manila.
15. Anhui, German str., for Amoy.
15. Hailan, French str., for Hoikow.
15. Druft, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
15. Kinkiang, British str., for Swatow.
15. Standard, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
15. Waishing, British str., for Shanghai.
15. Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
15. Yerimo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
16. Patchaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
17. Chipshing, British str., for Hongay.
17. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
17. Kingsing, British str., for Shanghai.
17. Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
17. Kweilin, British str., for Shanghai.
17. Laertes, British str., for Singapore.
17. Nippon, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
17. Schuykill, British str., for Singapore.
17. Tean, British str., for Manila.
18. Benlarig, British str., for Nagasaki.
18. Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
18. Ningpo, British str., for Ningpo.
18. Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
18. P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
18. P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., for Europe, &c.
18. Sosnu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
19. Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Swatow.
19. Courtfield, British str., for Durban.
19. E. of China, British str., for Vancouver.
19. Fukura Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
19. Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
19. Hiraft Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
19. Huichow, British str., for Haiphong.
19. Istok, Austrian str., for Singapore.
19. Lawhill, Br. 4-masted bark, for Baltimore.
19. Mandasan Maru, Jap. str., for Kuchinotzu.
19. Moyune, British str., for Shanghai.
19. Syria, British str., for Singapore.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Tjiliwong*, from Amoy. Mr. A. Thomas.
- Per *Loongsang*, from Manila. Messrs. H. J. Batterly, J. B. Swett, E. Robitaille & Vincent Castellano.
- Per *Mongolia*, for Hongkong, from San Francisco. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Francis, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hutton Potts, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. White, Mrs. A. Guffy, Mrs. M. E. Malson, Mrs. H. S. Wallace, Misses Mary M. Douca, H. Lewis, Ethel Hutton Potts and N. C. Winn, Messrs. M. W. Creagh, F. A. Crooks, I. M. Daily, T. Gribayedff, W. Harper, W. J. Hennessy, L. Jackson, M. N. Limjap, G. Nuque, H. W. Pahl, John H. Peters, Claud Russell, Marcus Sternberger, D. P. Sullivan and D. F. Malony; from Yokohama, Major and Mrs. W. P. Phister, U.S.A., Major and Mrs. A. M. Smith, Miss B. D. Phister, and Master Richard Smith; from Kobe, Messrs. D. W. Bauer, D. Bauer, T. D. Cowdrey, M. Kruger, H. S. Knox, F. S. Laskie and S. Welmer; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. L. Barth, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Kadorie, servant and maid, Miss M. Schaunisland, Rev. J. S. Milla, Dr. G. E. Goodel and servant, Prof. Dr. H. Schaunisland, Messrs. A. Charlier, W. L. Higgins, Thos. Reath, H. G. Tewee, J. A. Wattie and servant, and J. B. White.

Per *Haimun*, from Coast Ports. Mr. and Mrs. Burt, Messrs. Morley and Woodruff.

Per *P. R. Luitpold*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mrs. R. Lewis, Mrs. A. Forest, Miss Carter, and Mr. Henry Chr. Ross; from Kobe, Messrs. M. Dickinson, A. R. Brooks and M. Fujie; from Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Collaço, Mrs. W. C. Rivers and 2 children, Messrs. Bianco Antoine, J. Holland, E. H. Foot, B. L. Schmeer, Schulz, Toris & K. Onita; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Hotchkiss, Mr. and Mrs. Blumentahl and infant, Mrs. Geizhosh, Misses Robertson, R. Robertson, N. Parker, H. Schooley and Clair Burotest, Messrs. Hargroove, T. Campbell Robertson, W. A. Parker, Erich Kemna, Peyrac, B. Siebs and servant, and Nolte.

Per *P. E. Friedrich*, from Hamburg, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Ede, Mr. and Mrs. McKinley, Mrs. Dr. Klebs, Mrs. Bertha Barber, Mrs. Marie von Riegen, children and servant, Mrs. Colonel Ahlers and daughter, Mrs. Luyka, Mrs. Krusboom and 2 children, Mrs. C. E. Tatchell, Mrs. Hitchcock, Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. R. Knauber, 2 children and servant, Mrs. M. Thoresia Bunnenberg, Mrs. M. Willibald Schrader, Mrs. M. Searle, Mrs. Rook, Mrs. Boutelle and servant, Mrs. Okino, Mrs. Okiyo, Mrs. Osuye, Dr. Med. Felons, Messrs. W. H. Birkenough, Carl Paker, N. A. Siebs & family, F. St. Goar, M. Heng, W. S. Allen, Harold Seth & servant, G. Leurink, Herbert, Gottlieb Hartig, Hans Corda, F. J. Rowley, H. Müller, Ole Kollerod, John Fraser, Dougherty and T. B. Meyer.

Per *Empress of India*, for Hongkong, from Vancouver, Mr. and Mrs. R. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Zumbo, Mrs. and Miss Lowery, Mrs. C. A. Nelson, Mrs. H. Dorey, Misses Morrow and Cheney, Messrs. E. Jordan, R. McDonald, J. Richards, T. Burnside, J. Baby and J. F. Head; from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Chu Gow and 2 children, Messrs. J. Chant, T. H. Karshaw and F. P. Heap; from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Leedham, Miss Leedham, Messrs. W. Jones, W. A. Stapani, L. and D. Cormack; from Nagasaki, Mr. A. H. Franklyn; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Briggs, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Avery, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Glass, Misses M. A. and H. A. Little, Messrs. F. H. Ilse, W. T. Payne and H. Melchers-Ahrens.

DEPARTED.

Per *Asia*, for San Francisco, &c., Misses B. Richards and Berthoy, Messrs. A. Janssen, W. B. Mason, E. A. Katsob, A. W. Walter, A. H. Brady, H. F. Maders and A. Moir.

Per *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, &c., Miss Sandes, Messrs. Wm. T. Payne, J. L. Scott, Parks, Murray Scott, Yamada, G. E. Goode, W. F. McLaughlin, J. M. Tait, Wilberforce James, A. Walter, Hampden & E. Thomas.

Per *P. E. Friedrich*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Seegelen, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Low, Messrs. Wenter Brunner, S. H. Ellis, Meyer, Wessalhaft, G. B. Atkinson, Lyhka & T. Taft; for Nagasaki, Mrs. A. Wesseng, Mrs. Nomura, Messrs. Yamaguchi, Mitani and Okamoto; for Kobe, Messrs. S. Kato and Hasenygawa; for Yokohama, Mrs. Roth, Messrs. E. v. Riedl, Riedenstein and F. A. Krull.

Per *P. R. Luitpold*, for Bremen, &c., Mr. and Mrs. v. Aalderen, Mr. and Mrs. Chaplin, Dr. and Mrs. Pick, Rev. and Mrs. Irving Spencer, Rev. and Mrs. Zumbro, Mrs. Caroline Baker, Mrs. Emmy Marschall von Bieberstein, Mrs. T. W. Edwards, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. B. Legrange, Mrs. Reid, Misses Artillact Brill, Carter, E. Fische, M. Fische, Green, Harkness, A. Lowry, H. M. Lowry, Morrow, Slacks, Swift and Turnbull, Dr. Broomhall, Dr. T. C. Graham, Dr. F. A. Wellwood, Prof. Dr. Schausland and Tochter, Rev. MacDonnell, Rev. Darrow and family, Sir Fred. Graham, Messrs. Arbena, H. M. Abba, O. Bauer, O. W. Bauer, Botermann, F. B. Blow, Charlier, H. T. Dunn, D. C. McEwen, Eberhardt Ernst, Aug. C. Ferber, Max Kruse, Max Krueger, Kaufmann, Conr. Krause, T. Langfield, Alfred Mildner, Vincent Onorato, A. C. Phillips, Nai Patch, Richard, S. Sieger, Otto Schreiner, Schnell, Tangording, M. v. Liedemann, R. Thomson and family, M. Voigt, Phya Varady, Wernigand Oberle Yee.

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